

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Justice and Communities

The Hon. Yasmin Catley MP
Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism and
Minister for the Hunter

Hearing: Tuesday 7 November 2023

RESPONSES TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Answers due by:

6 December 2023

Budget Estimates Secretariat
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Police and Counter-Terrorism, the Hunter

Questions from Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC

Police

Drug Detection Dogs

1. How many drug detection dogs were present at Knockout Outdoor 2023?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force is not able to identify which individual user pay events relate to music festivals and accordingly, the NSW Police Force cannot advise the breakdown of drug dogs assigned to those user pay events.

2. How many drug detection dogs were present at Listen Out Sydney 2023?

Answer:

See answer to question 1.

3. What was the cost of maintaining the Police Detection Dog unit(s) for the purposes of drug detection, including upkeep, training, equipment and operational costs in:

- a) 2012-13?
- b) 2013-14?
- c) 2014-15?
- d) 2015-16?
- e) 2016-17?
- f) 2017-18?
- g) 2018-19?
- h) 2019-20?
- i) 2020-21?
- j) 2021-22?
- k) 2022-23?

I am advised:

The costs of maintaining the Drug Detection Dog Unit are as follows:

- a) \$3,264,488
- b) \$4,041,351
- c) \$3,907,150
- d) \$3,914,818
- e) \$2,959,140
- f) \$3,242,301
- g) \$2,993,770

- h) \$2,775,810
- i) \$3,311,560
- j) \$3,428,117
- k) \$3,599,135

4. How much money has been paid out by or on behalf of the NSW Police Force or the NSW Government in response to legal proceedings relating to drug detection dogs in: (a) 2012?
- a) 2013?
 - b) 2014?
 - c) 2015?
 - d) 2016?
 - e) 2017?
 - f) 2018?
 - g) 2019?
 - h) 2020?
 - i) 2021?
 - j) 2022?
 - k) 1 January to 30 June 2023?

I am advised:

Separate costs and expenses incurred in response to legal proceedings relating to police drug detection dogs are not held by the NSW Police Force.

5. What expenses have been incurred by or on behalf of the NSW Police Force or the NSW Government defending legal proceedings relating to drug detection dogs in:
- a) 2012?
 - b) 2013?
 - c) 2014?
 - d) 2015?
 - e) 2016?
 - f) 2017?
 - g) 2018?
 - h) 2019?
 - i) 2020?
 - j) 2021?
 - k) 2022?
 - l) 1 January to 30 June 2023?

Answer:

See answer to question 4.

Strip Searches

6. What were the total number of strip searches in:
- a) 2019?
 - b) 2020?
 - c) 2021?
 - d) 2022?
 - e) 1 January to 30 June 2023?

I am advised:

- a) 9,486
- b) 7,069
- c) 4,932
- d) 4,205
- e) 2,166

7. What were the total number of strip searches where a weapon was found in:
- a) 2019?
 - b) 2020?
 - c) 2021?
 - d) 2022?
 - e) 1 January to 30 June 2023?

I am advised:

- a) 111
- b) 171
- c) 116
- d) 81
- e) 65

8. What were the total number of strip searches where an illicit substance was found in:
- a) 2019?
 - b) 2020?
 - c) 2021?
 - d) 2022?
 - e) 1 January to 30 June 2023?

I am advised:

- a) 1,311
- b) 1,137
- c) 774
- d) 782
- e) 474

9. Where an illicit substance was found as a result of a strip search, please provide a breakdown of the type of illicit substance found for:

- a) 2019?
- b) 2020?
- c) 2021?
- d) 2022?
- e) 1 January to 30 June 2023?

I am advised:

Refer to **TAB D** for a breakdown of the type of illicit substance found, as a result of a strip search.

10. Where an illicit substance was found as a result of a strip search, please provide a breakdown of the amount found, broken down into categories of 'small quantity', 'traffickable quantity', 'indictable quantity', 'commercial quantity', and 'large commercial quantity' as defined by the *Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985*, for:
- a) 2019?
 - b) 2020?
 - c) 2021?
 - d) 2022?
 - e) 1 January to 30 June 2023?

I am advised:

Refer to **TAB E** for a breakdown of the amount of illicit substance found, as a result of a strip search, broken down into different categories.

11. Where an illicit substance was found as a result of a strip search, how many individuals were charged with possession of a prohibited drug under section 10(1) of the *Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985* in:
- a) 2019?
 - b) 2020?
 - c) 2021?
 - d) 2022?
 - e) 1 January to 30 June 2023?

I am advised:

- a) 1,123
- b) 908
- c) 646
- d) 578
- e) 340

12. Of the individuals charged with possession of a prohibited drug under section 10(1) of the *Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985* as a result of a strip search, how many were convicted in:
- a) 2019?
 - b) 2020?
 - c) 2021?

- d) 2022?
- e) 1 January to 30 June 2023?

I am advised:

- a) 669
- b) 653
- c) 508
- d) 374
- e) 208

13. Where an illicit substance was found as a result of a strip search, how many individuals were charged with supply of a prohibited drug under section 25(1) of the *Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985* in:

- a) 2019?
- b) 2020?
- c) 2021?
- d) 2022?
- e) 1 January to 30 June 2023?

I am advised:

- a) 308
- b) 305
- c) 206
- d) 240
- e) 132

14. Of the individuals charged with supply of a prohibited drug under section 25(1) of the *Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985* as a result of a strip search, how many were convicted in:

- a) 2019?
- b) 2020?
- c) 2021?
- d) 2022?
- e) 1 January to 30 June 2023?

I am advised:

- a) 206
- b) 198
- c) 148
- d) 140
- e) 62

15. Where an illicit substance was found as a result of a strip search, how many individuals were charged with ongoing supply of prohibited drugs under section 25A(1) of the *Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985* in:

- a) 2019?
- b) 2020?
- c) 2021?
- d) 2022?
- e) 1 January to 30 June 2023?

I am advised:

- a) 9
- b) 10
- c) 7
- d) 6
- e) 2

16. Of the individuals charged with supply of ongoing supply of prohibited drugs under section 25A(1) of the *Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985* as a result of a strip search, how many were convicted in:

- a) 2019?
- b) 2020?
- c) 2021?
- d) 2022?
- e) 1 January to 30 June 2023?

I am advised:

- a) 6
- b) 6
- c) 3
- d) 3
- e) 1

17. Where an illicit substance was found as a result of a strip search, how many individuals were charged with deemed supply for a traffickable quantity under section 29 of the *Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985* in:

- a) 2019?
- b) 2020?
- c) 2021?
- d) 2022?
- e) 1 January to 30 June 2023?

I am advised:

- a) 0
- b) 0
- c) 0
- d) 0
- e) 0

18. Of the individuals charged with deemed supply for a traffickable quantity under section 29 of the *Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985* as a result of a strip search, how many were convicted in:
- a) 2019?
 - b) 2020?
 - c) 2021?
 - d) 2022?
 - e) 1 January to 30 June 2023?

I am advised:

- a) 0
- b) 0
- c) 0
- d) 0
- e) 0

Listen Out Sydney 2023

19. What was the total cost of User Pays Policing Services for Listen Out Sydney 2023?
- a) Please provide an itemised breakdown of the total cost with reference to the NSW Police Force Schedule of Cost Recovery and User Fees and Charges.

I am advised:

The overall cost of the Listen Out 2023 - Music Festival event was \$224,139, excluding GST.

A breakdown of the costs charged to the organiser of the music event is attached at TAB G. NSWPF is unable to provide the actual total cost of the event to NSWPF as this breakdown does not include specific BAU costs such as overheads, administration and planning costs among others.

20. Of the 166 general searches undertaken at Listen Out Sydney 2023, how many resulted in findings of:
- a) a weapon?
 - b) an illicit substance?
 - i. Please provide a breakdown of the amount found, broken down into categories of 'small quantity', 'traffickable quantity', 'indictable quantity', 'commercial quantity', and 'large commercial quantity' as defined by the *Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985*.
 - ii. Please provide a breakdown of the type of illicit substance found.

I am advised:

There were 165 general searches undertaken at Listen Out 2023.

- a) 0
- b) Refer to **TAB F** for the data requested.

Notes:

Figures reported previous stated there were 166 strip searches. This figure has been revised to 165, due to the previous data being inclusive of all searches rather than those with the specific parameter "Search Type>General".

21. Of the 20 strip searches undertaken at Listen Out Sydney 2023, how many resulted in findings of:

- a) a weapon?
- b) an illicit substance?
 - i. Please provide a breakdown of the amount found, broken down into categories of 'small quantity', 'traffickable quantity', 'indictable quantity', 'commercial quantity', and 'large commercial quantity' as defined by the *Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985*.
 - ii. Please provide a breakdown of the type of illicit substance found.

I am advised:

There were 23 strip searches undertaken at Listen Out 2023.

- a) 0 strip searches with a weapon found at Listen Out 2023.
- b)

Drug Name	Drug Size	Strip Searches
Cannabis	Below Small	6
Cannabis	Unknown	2
Cocaine	Small	2
Cocaine	Traffickable	1
Lsd	Commercial	1
Mdma (Ecstasy)	Small	2
Mdma (Ecstasy)	Indictable	7
Mdma (Ecstasy)	Traffickable	3
Other Drug	Unknown	1
Pharmaceutical Drug	Unknown	1

Counts refer to number of Strip Searches where the named drug type & drug size was found.

Notes:

Figures reported previous stated there were 20 strip searches in this category. This figure has been revised to 23 following further searches of the data.

Knockout Outdoor 2023

22. What was the total cost of User Pays Policing Services for Knockout Outdoor 2023?

- a) Please provide an itemised breakdown of the total cost with reference to the NSW Police Force Schedule of Cost Recovery and User Fees and Charges.

I am advised:

The overall cost of User Pays Policing Services for the Knockout Music Festival event was \$106,858.80, excluding GST.

A breakdown of the costs charged to the organiser of the music event is attached at TAB G. NSWPF is unable to provide the actual total cost of the event to NSWPF as this breakdown does not include specific BAU costs such as overheads, administration and planning costs among others.

23. Of the 186 general searches undertaken at Knockout Outdoor 2023, how many resulted in findings of:

- a) a weapon?
- b) an illicit substance?
 - i. Please provide a breakdown of the amount found, broken down into categories of ‘small quantity’, ‘traffickable quantity’, ‘indictable quantity’, ‘commercial quantity’, and ‘large commercial quantity’ as defined by the *Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985*.
 - ii. Please provide a breakdown of the type of illicit substance found.

I am advised:

There were 144 general searches undertaken at Knockout 2023.

- a) One (1) general search with a weapon found at Knockout 2023.

Drug Name	Drug Size	General Searches
Cannabis	Below Small	2
Cannabis	Unknown	2
Cocaine	Traffickable	1
Mdma (Ecstasy)	Small	1
Mdma (Ecstasy)	Indictable	2
Mdma (Ecstasy)	Traffickable	2
Mdma (Ecstasy)	Unknown	1
Methyl/Amphetamine	Small	1
Other Drug	Unknown	1
Pharmaceutical Drug	Unknown	2

Counts refer to number of General Searches where the named drug type & drug size was found.

Notes:

Figures reported previous stated there were 186 strip searches. This figure has been revised to 144, due to the previous data being inclusive of all searches rather than those with the specific parameter "Search Type>General".

24. Of the 49 strip searches undertaken at Knockout Outdoor 2023, how many resulted in findings of:

- a) a weapon?
- b) an illicit substance?
 - i. Please provide a breakdown of the amount found, broken down into categories of ‘small quantity’, ‘traffickable quantity’, ‘indictable quantity’, ‘commercial quantity’, and ‘large commercial quantity’ as defined by the *Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985*.

- ii. Please provide a breakdown of the type of illicit substance found.

I am advised:

There were 49 strip searches undertaken at Knockout 2023.

- a) 0 strip searches with a weapon found at Knockout 2023.
- b)

Drug Name	Drug Size	Strip Searches
Cocaine	Small	2
Cocaine	Traffickable	1
Cocaine	Unknown	1
Gamma Hydroxybutyrate(Ghb)/Related Compd	Indictable	1
Mdma (Ecstasy)	Small	2
Mdma (Ecstasy)	Indictable	6
Mdma (Ecstasy)	Traffickable	2
Mdma (Ecstasy)	Unknown	4
Other Drug	Unknown	3
Pharmaceutical Drug	Unknown	2

Counts refer to number of strip searches where the named drug type and drug size was found.

Yours and Owls 2023

25. For the Yours and Owls festival 2023:

- a) How many general searches were undertaken?
 - i. Of these, how many resulted in findings of a weapon?
 - ii. Of these, how many resulted in findings of an illicit substance?
 - i. Please provide a breakdown of the amount found, broken down into categories of 'small quantity', 'traffickable quantity', 'indictable quantity', 'commercial quantity', and 'large commercial quantity' as defined by the *Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985*.
 - ii. Please provide a breakdown of the type of illicit substance found.
- b) How many strip searches were undertaken?
 - i. Of these, how many resulted in findings of a weapon?
 - ii. Of these, how many resulted in findings of an illicit substance?
 - i. Please provide a breakdown of the amount found, broken down into categories of 'small quantity', 'traffickable quantity', 'indictable quantity', 'commercial quantity', and 'large commercial quantity' as defined by the *Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985*.
 - ii. Please provide a breakdown of the type of illicit substance found.
- c) What was the total cost of User Pays Policing Services for Knockout Outdoor 2023?
 - i. Please provide an itemised breakdown of the total cost with reference to the NSW Police Force Schedule of Cost Recovery and User Fees and Charges.

I am advised:

- a) 107 general searches were undertaken at the Yours and Owls 2023

- i. 0 general searches with a weapon found
- ii. 34 general searches with an illicit substance found at Yours and Owls 2023.
(refer to the below for 25 (a) (ii – i and ii))

Drug Name	Drug Size	General Searches
Cannabis	Below Small	19
Cannabis	Unknown	3
Cannabis Plant	Below Small	1
Cocaine	Small	2
Cocaine	Unknown	1
Lsd	Commercial	1
Mdma (Ecstasy)	Small	2
Mdma (Ecstasy)	Traffickable	3
Other Drug	Unknown	3
Pharmaceutical Drug	Unknown	2

Counts refer to number of General Searches where the named drug type & drug size was found.

- b) 16 strip searches were undertaken at the Yours and Owls 2023.
 - i. 0 strip searches with a weapon found
 - ii. (refer to the below for 25 (b) (ii – i and ii))

Drug Name	Drug Size	Strip Searches
Cannabis	Below Small	5
Cocaine	Small	2
Cocaine	Unknown	1
Mdma (Ecstasy)	Indictable	1
Mdma (Ecstasy)	Traffickable	4
Mdma (Ecstasy)	Unknown	1
Other Drug	Unknown	5
Pharmaceutical Drug	Unknown	1

Counts refer to number of Strip Searches where the named drug type & drug size was found.

- c) Please refer to the answer to question 22.

Cannabis Cautioning Scheme

26. Please provide a copy of *NSW Police’s Cannabis Cautioning Scheme Guidelines*.

I am advised:

The Cannabis Cautioning Scheme Guidelines are available on the NSW Police Force’s website.

Criminal Infringement Notices

27. Please provide a copy of *NSW Police's Drug Criminal Infringement Notices - Standard Operating Procedures*.

I am advised:

The Drug Criminal Infringement Notices Standard Operating Procedures is not available for release outside the NSW Police Force.

User Pays Policing Services

28. What was the total revenue from User Pays Policing Services in:

- a) 2014?
- b) 2015?
- c) 2016?
- d) 2017?
- e) 2018?
- f) 2019?
- g) 2020?
- h) 2021?
- i) 2022?
- j) 2023?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force's annual reports sets out its revenue from user pays policing services and cost recovery activities. These activities include seconded officers, insurance reports, sports/entertainment events, supervision, refunds of escort expenses, minor sales of goods and services, and National Criminal History records checks.

The amounts disclosed in NSWPF's annual report in relevant year are set out below.

- (a) Year ended 30 June 2014: \$38,036,000
- (b) Year ended 30 June 2015: \$38,188,000
- (c) Year ended 30 June 2016: \$39,741,000
- (d) Year ended 30 June 2017: \$41,406,000
- (e) Year ended 30 June 2018: \$49,056,000
- (f) Year ended 30 June 2019: \$51,350,000
- (g) Year ended 30 June 2020: \$74,846,000*
- (h) Year ended 30 June 2021: \$93,703,000*
- (i) Year ended 30 June 2022: \$99,086,000*
- (j) Year ended 30 June 2023: \$88,785,000*

**Includes cost recovery from NSW Health for administration of the Government wide distribution of Personal Protective Equipment as part of the COVID-19 response.*

29. What was the cost of the User Pays Policing Services, the number of User Pays police in attendance, the number of operational police in attendance, and the number of drug dogs deployed for every event where User Pays Policing Services were provided in:

- a) 2014?
- b) 2015?
- c) 2016?
- d) 2017?
- e) 2018?
- f) 2019?
- g) 2020?
- h) 2021?
- i) 2022?
- j) 2023?

I am advised:

This breakdown of police officers and drug dogs assigned to user pay events is not available. The NSW Police Force's Annual Reports sets out its revenue from user pays policing services and cost recovery activities. These activities include seconded officers, Insurance reports, Sports/Entertainment Events, Supervision, Refunds of escort expenses, Minor sales of goods and Services, National criminal history records checks.

User pays activities are additional shifts undertaken by the NSW Police Force officers above the normal rostered shifts required for the organisation.

30. Please list the categories used to categorise events with User Pays Policing Services for the purposes of NSW Police's financial ledger.

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force's Annual Report categorises its sale of goods and services from contracts with customers (including user pays revenue) in the categories below.

The NSW Police Force's Revenue categories (as shown in the 2022-23 Annual Report p. 34) comprise the following:

- Sale of Goods and services from contracts with customers:
- NSW Ministry of Health - COVID-19 cost recoveries
- Sports / Entertainment Events - Supervision
- Officers on Loan
- National criminal history records check
- Officers rent contribution
- Multi licences income
- College Operations
- Minor sales of goods and services
- Insurance reports
- Security / escort charges
- Transport for NSW - Road safety initiatives and programs
- User charges revenue and cost recoveries

31. What framework, matrix, criteria, or guidelines are used by NSW Police to determine the quantum of User Pays Policing Services required for an event in NSW?

a) Please provide this framework, matrix, criteria, or guidelines.

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force is guided by the Premier's Department's User Charges Policy and NSW Treasury's Guidelines for Pricing of User Charges (TPP01-2).

More information can be found at <https://arp.nsw.gov.au/tpp01-02-guidelines-pricing-user-charges/> and <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/community-engagement/user-charges-policy>.

32. What framework, matrix, criteria, or guidelines or guidelines are used by NSW Police to determine the quantum of User Pays Policing Services required for a 'subject' festival, as defined by the *Music Festivals Act 2019*?

a) Please provide this framework, matrix, criteria, or guidelines.

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force employs a multifaceted approach across its various regions to determine the quantum of User Pays Policing Services required for 'subject' festivals, as defined by the *Music Festivals Act 2019*.

Within the regions, user pays numbers are managed individually by each command, considering factors such as the festival's size, location, event layout, demographics of attendees, style of entertainment, duration, history, and associated risks.

The NSW Police Force's policy that this relates to can be found on the NSWPF website at https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/9066/Cost_Recovery_and_User_Charges_Nov_2019.pdf.

Additional considerations include security guard and RSA numbers, other concurrent events, user pays police requests, and Police SOPs for specialist units.

Police Area Commands (PACs) and Police Districts (PDs) engage in negotiations with stakeholders to assess numbers, costs, and risks, conducting risk assessments with mitigation strategies.

Police and Counter-Terrorism, the Hunter

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

Minister's Responsibilities

33. Whose responsibility is it to brief the Premier or other members of the Government on Police activities, incidents or issues?

I am advised:

The Minister, the Minister's office, and/or NSW Police Force as appropriate.

34. How would you describe your working relationship with the Commissioner?

Answer:

Excellent.

35. How would you describe the working relationship between your office and NSW Police?

Answer:

Excellent.

36. Minister, what is your stance on pill testing?

I am advised:

The NSW Government has committed to hold a drug summit in its first term of Government. The drug summit will bring together health and addition experts, as well as frontline workers and police, and it will provide an evidence-based framework on drug reform.

Budget Details

37. How much has been allocated to NSW Police Force Budget in 2023/24?

I am advised:

Information about allocation to the NSW Police Force Budget in 2023/24 is available in the 2023/24 Budget Papers.

38. How many new police officers are being recruited in 2023/24 and what is the cost?

I am advised:

Information about allocation to the NSW Police Force Budget in 2023/24 is available in the 2023/24 Budget Papers.

39. How much is being spent on the critical police radar network across the southern, south west and far west regions in NSW?

I am advised:

Information about allocation to the NSW Police Force Budget in 2023/24 is available in the 2023/24 Budget Papers.

40. How much is being spent on the replacement of the police floating wharf at Balmain?

I am advised:

Information about allocation to the NSW Police Force Budget in 2023/24 is available in the 2023/24 Budget Papers.

41. How much money is being spent on Police facilities at Helensburgh?

I am advised:

Information about allocation to the NSW Police Force Budget in 2023/24 is available in the 2023/24 Budget Papers.

42. Where will the \$23 million for in minor capital works be spent?

I am advised:

Information about allocation to the NSW Police Force Budget in 2023/24 is available in the 2023/24 Budget Papers.

43. How much money has been allocated to legal settlements in the past financial year?

I am advised:

There is no set amount allocated per financial year for the settlement of civil claims. As claims come in, a reserve amount is placed on each claim aimed at covering any damages and legal costs.

44. Can you detail what kind of settlements have these mainly been?

I am advised:

Payments are made across a range of areas including workers compensation, intentional torts, privacy, discrimination, settlement of contractual disputes and associated legal costs.

45. How does the current police budget prioritise funding for frontline officers and their equipment needs?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force commands are allocated budgets according to approved human resourcing plans. Budgets include Employee Related Expenses and Other Operating Expenses, which includes funding for minor equipment and operational supplies to support the command. Employee Related budgets are centrally modelled based on authorised allocated positions each financial year and Other Operating budgets are allocated on an incremental basis based on nature of the command and human resourcing allocation.

Commands are accountable for the management of budgets allocated and have discretion to reprioritise expenditure as required. Procurement of assets for commands is managed through a range of capital programs within NSWPF, whether they be minor capital in nature or managed centrally under a head of profession model (e.g. ICT equipment).

The NSW Police Force's governance model allows commands to escalate any budgetary issues within their Region or Deputy Commissioner's span of control where required. For material budgetary issues, these can be escalated to the Finance & Performance Committee and Commissioner's Executive Team for consideration.

46. Can you provide details on any recent investments made in technology and training for law enforcement to improve community safety?

I am advised:

Details on recent investments made in technology and training for law enforcement to improve community safety are detailed in the NSW Police Force Annual Report (p. 117).

47. How is the budget allocated to address specific community safety concerns, such as crime prevention programs or community policing initiatives?

I am advised:

Budgets are allocated to individual commands to address relevant community issues in their local Police Area Command/District. The Budget process allows commanders to request budget supplementation where required to deal with emerging issues that cannot be accommodated from existing budgets.

48. Are there any initiatives aimed at reducing the use of force and improving de-escalation techniques within law enforcement and how is the budget involved in these efforts?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force seeks continuous improvement in its officers' training to respond to operational needs. Use of force training is provided throughout an officer's career and is reinforced by internal and external oversight mechanisms.

49. What measures are in place to ensure the Police are using budgeted funds efficiently and effectively

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force has an established system of financial governance, which includes financial management policies, procedures, and processes; systems to recognise and manage risks and opportunities; and an effective internal control framework.

The NSW Police Force operates committees at various levels that meet routinely to set budgets, monitor financial performance and manage risks and opportunities. These committees include various steering committee, Finance and Performance Committee and Commissioner's Executive Team.

Commands are accountable for the efficient and effective delivery of service of their commands within their budgets.

The NSW Police Force requires commands to review and report upon their financial performance monthly.

50. Are there plans to increase funding for mental health and crisis intervention training for officers to better address community safety needs?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force is currently undertaking a review into its overall response to mental health incidents across NSW.

The NSW Police Force recently approved and introduced organisation wide mental health response training, which includes a focus on response to crisis intervention.

All student police officers receive foundational mental health training prior to attestation; and all NSWPF officers receive annual mental health training, which will also involve crisis management scenarios during defensive tactics training.

51. How does the budget support diversity and inclusion efforts within the police force, and what measures are in place to promote community trust?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force is committed to proactive and strong community engagement across NSW. This commitment is embedded in the NSW Police Force Corporate Plan '*Our Focus, Our Future*' through the identification of 'Connected Community' as a key priority.

The NSW Police Force budget supports a range of diversity and inclusion community efforts, including but not limited to, Aboriginal Employment and Engagement and Inclusion and Diversity teams who undertake activities relating to culturally sensitive community engagement, recruitment and retention.

Additionally, the NSW Police Force has numerous support teams, such as the LGBTQI+ Liaison Officers, Multicultural Liaison Officers, Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers, Youth Officers, all seeking to engage and build trust with the community.

52. How does the budget plan to address the challenge posed by illegal drugs and organised crime and what resources are being dedicated to this issue?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force budget provides a separate allocation to the Drug and Firearms Squad and Organised Crime Squads to support an authorised strength of:

- 95 officers for Drugs and Firearms Squad; and
- 97 Organised Crime Squad.

The NSW Police Force's budget process allows commanders to request budget supplementation, where required, to deal with emerging issues that cannot be accommodated from existing budgets.

Critical Incidents – Clare Nowland

53. When did you as Minister know the family had been informed?

Answer:

I was advised the family were being informed from the 17th.

54. What steps did you take or what enquiries did you make to ensure the public were notified as soon as possible?

I am advised:

The Police Media Unit in cooperation with operational police officers make decisions about when media releases are issued to the public.

55. What efforts did you as the Minister make to keep yourself up to date with developments after the original briefing on 17 May?

Answer:

I received ongoing updates on the investigation, as appropriate.

56. What action have you taken to prevent the mishandling of critical incidents in the future as exhibited in this event?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force are responding to the recommendations in the LECC's final report titled *Five Years of Independent Monitoring of NSWPF Critical Incident Investigations*.

Critical Incidents – Opera House Rally 9th October

57. Did you contact any organisation or stakeholders about the decision to light the Opera House sails on the 9th of October?

Answer:

No.

58. How long were Police given to assess this decision and provide input on potential safety risks?

I am advised:

Information relating police operations, including timelines, at the Opera House on 9 October have been made available in SO52 returns to the Legislative Council.

59. Do you think it is appropriate for Police to be finding out at the 11th hour of an event that could pose a threat to communities in our state?

I am advised:

The NSWPF conducted a risk assessment of the event as is appropriate. At the event NSW Police Force managed a large and volatile crowd to prevent conflict, violence and to protect public safety.

60. What actions did you take to deal with this lack of communication?

Answer:

There was no lack of communication.

61. Did you request a briefing for the Acting Premier that day? If not, why not?

Answer:

No. The Premier and the Premier's office were briefed as was appropriate.

62. Did you tell anyone from the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies to stay away?

Answer:

No.

63. Did you tell the President David Ossip that the Jewish community should stay away?

Answer:

No.

64. Did you tell the President David Ossip that attending the Opera House would be "dangerous"?

Answer:

No.

65. What did the Jewish Board of Deputies raise with you as their concerns about the Palestinian protest?

I am advised:

The Jewish Board of Deputies communicated with the NSW Police Force, asking the NSW Police what they should advise their community. Advice was provided to them directly, via the appropriate command within the NSW Police Force.

66. Which organisation did you personally contact before the events at the Opera House on Monday 9th October?

Answer:

The New South Wales Police Force and the Jewish Board of Deputies.

67. Have you read the LECC report on independent monitoring of NSW Police Force Critical Incident Investigations?

- a) Can you explain what is in the report?
- b) Which of the seven recommendations have you prioritised?
- c) What have you done as Minister to progress these recommendations into implementation?

I am advised:

A summary of the report and a fact sheet is available on the LECC website. The NSWPF have formally responded to the report's recommendations, which are published on the LECC's website. The NSWPF has my full support to progress the accepted recommendations.

68. What is involved in an 'urgent threat assessment'?

- a) How is this conducted?

I am advised:

A threat assessment is the practice of determining the credibility and seriousness of a potential threat, as well as the probability that the threat will become a reality.

The NSW Police Force does not have a formal 'Urgent Threat Assessment' policy or procedure. Police undertake threat assessments in their daily operations across multiple areas of the organisation. This includes threat assessments for unfolding and impending incidents or events. The need for urgency is determined by the incident or event that police are dealing with at the time.

69. What protocols are there in notifying the Minister and or any member of the NSW Government of potential threats that are identified by an urgent threat assessment?

I am advised:

There is no formal protocol to notify the Minister and/or any member of the NSW Government. The NSW Police Force notifies the Minister on matters of significance as required.

70. How long is required at a minimum to conduct an urgent threat assessment and notify all necessary parties of the outcome?

I am advised:

There is no defined timeframe in which a threat assessment is to be conducted. The incident or event that police are dealing with at the time determines the urgency and associated timeframe to conduct a threat assessment.

Police Staff Numbers

71. Minister, is policing and the recruitment of police officers in dire straits here in NSW?

I am advised:

The former Government left the NSW Police Force over 1000 officers under its authorised strength.

The NSW Police Force is continually looking at opportunities to improve recruitment strategies within the current economic and labour market landscape. Initiatives include the Government's recent announcement to pay student police officers, which seeks to attract applicants that might otherwise have discounted or delayed a policing career due to financial limitations.

72. Please provide the number, or closest to as of today, of how many police officers are in the NSW Police Force?

I am advised:

As at 30 September 2023, the number of sworn officers headcount is 16,836.

73. Minister, the former NSW Government worked very closely with the Police Association of NSW and the NSW Police Force to provide incentives to encourage more cops to go bush'. Is this program still continuing?

- a) Has the budget for this program been retained as outlined from the former NSW Government?
- b) What is the funding amount?
- c) Could you outline how it is working?
- d) How many officers have taken up the new incentive scheme since it began and have moved to the bush since July 2023?

I am advised:

Yes, the program commenced on 1 July 2023 and is currently funded for a period of five years to 30 June 2028.

- a) Yes, the program has been funded up to 30 June 2028.
- b) \$1.5 million per year for five years. Noting that this is in addition to the existing police budget of \$1.2 million per annum that is set aside for regional incentives.
- c) Officers based in remote and special remote locations are paid a lump sum payment each year at the commencement of their tenure year. The payments are capped at five years to encourage mobility across the organisation.
- d) As at 20 November 2023, 307 officers have received a regional incentive since the implementation of the program.

Data indicates that there have been 36 officers transfer into remote and special remote locations since 1 July 2023.

74. Are you as Minister looking at other ways to support our police moving to the bush, given some communities have had no police officer in their community for nearly 12 months?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force continues to explore workforce strategies to address rural and regional attraction and retention efforts. The Regional Incentives Program, which provides an enhanced incentive scheme for police stationed within remote and special remote locations, including incentive payments and shortened tenure.

75. You have said you are working on "innovative measures" to fix the policing numbers issue. Can you share your thoughts on what that actually means and what you have done?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force is always looking for opportunities to improve recruitment and retention.

Initiatives include the recent announcement of student police officers, which seeks to attract applicants that might otherwise have discounted a policing career due to financial limitations.

76. Minister we are hearing reports of stations closing at night due to understaffing. Can you outline which stations have been shutting their doors because no one can man them?

I am advised:

Wetherill Park Police Station commenced a trial for evening closure (6pm to 6am) on 7 August 2023. In lieu of the station being open between 6pm and 6am in Wetherill Park, a car crew is specifically allocated to the Wetherill Park Sector each night shift (6pm to 6am).

77. How often has this been happening?

Answer:

See answer to question 76.

78. Is the safety and wellbeing of officers left on duty understaffed at risk?

Answer:

See answer to question 76.

79. Minister, do you agree that police resources should be used to transport prisoners across the state on behalf of Corrections?

- a) Is this an effective use of police resourcing when it leaves some towns and communities exposed to crime when the one and only police officer has left town for several hours to transport a prisoner from one jail to another.
- b) Have you discussed this matter with the commissioner?
- c) What plans are being put in place to address this matter and free up police resources?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force generally only transport prisoners in their custody who are 'police bail refused' from their original place of detention at a police station to a court for their first appearance, or to another police station or to a Corrective Services Complex for their continuing detention prior to an initial Court appearance. This activity is most prevalent in regional and remote locations. This is the NSW Police Force's responsibility as it pertains to people in police custody who have not been to Court.

From time to time, the NSW Police Force may be called upon to transport 'court bail refused' prisoners from a Court to a designated Corrective Services Complex due to the delay or absence of Corrective Services to facilitate such a prisoner movement. This is most prevalent in regional and remote locations. Such a duty performed by the NSW Police Force is not core policing responsibility but has evolved due to custom and practice as no other agency is available to perform the transport function.

The NSW Police Force also transport and escort female remand and sentenced prisoners from a goal complex to Courts across NSW for Hearings and Trials.

80. What are the main factors contributing to the shortage of police officers in our state?

I am advised:

The number of incoming police recruits is impacted by broad labour market factors and an increasingly competitive labour market. Additionally, barriers to entry including the lack of pay for student police officers, affected the number of people seeking to become a police officer.

81. How does the shortage of police officers' impact public safety and law enforcement operations in our communities?

I am advised:

Local Commanders and the NSW Police Force have the discretion to utilise deployment strategies to ensure that appropriate service delivery is maintained.

82. Are there specific regions or departments within the state facing more acute shortages of police personnel? If so, why?

I am advised:

While some locations may be experiencing staffing shortage due to sick leave and vacancies, local Commanders and the NSW Police Force have the discretion to utilise deployment strategies to ensure that appropriate service delivery is maintained.

83. How are you collaborating with local councils and community organisations to address shortages?

I am advised:

Police Recruitment Branch attend numerous school and community events with local police to promote the benefits of joining the NSW Police Force.

84. How many officers are currently suspended from duty?

I am advised:

As at 24 November 2023, there are 47 officers currently suspended from duty.

85. How many officers have we lost to the incentive schemes offered by QLD Police Force since they were initiated?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force is unable to verify how many, if any, police officers resigned and took up employment with QLD Police Force.

86. Is it fair to say that attrition is outstripping recruitment?

I am advised:

In the last 2022-23 fiscal year, there were 1,381 police officers separated from the NSW Police Force and 779 police officers attested. That is why the Government announced its policy to pay student police officers, to attract more people to become police officers with the NSW Police Force.

87. Do shortages on a police roster have an impact on the ability for police to respond to incidents?

I am advised:

First response is core to the NSW Police Force policing service and is held as the highest priority. While some locations may be experiencing staffing shortage due to sick leave & vacancy, local Commanders and the organisation have the discretion to divert resources to ensure the public safety of NSW. This is continually assessed at Command/Region and Organisational level to ensure that appropriate resources are deployed as required.

Police Stations

88. Minister, in the budget you have allocated urgent repairs to critical infrastructure upgrades at the Potts Hill facility and Glebe Police Station. Refurbishments works at Penrith and St Mary's Police Stations will accommodate an increase in staff levels. How are these projects determined a priority?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force undertakes ongoing evaluation and monitoring of its property portfolio, this is informed by the Capital Investment Plan and Investment Prioritisation process. During which, capital works projects are agreed to be put forward as part of the state budget process.

89. Can you list what other Police Area Commands will benefit from the \$8 million for repairs and refurbishments, including at Glebe Police Station and Nepean Police Area Command?

a) How were these commands identified as most in need of upgrades?

Answer:

Refer to answer to question 88.

90. What is the current status of the upgrade to Singleton Police Station?

- a) Will a development application be submitted in Singleton Council - if so when?
- b) Has a timeline for the upgrade been prepared?
- c) When is a tender for the upgrade forecast to be put to market?
- d) What is the plan for operational policing at Singleton during the construction work?
- e) When is the upgrade to Singleton Police Station expected to be completed?

I am advised:

See answer to question taken on notice regarding Singleton Police Station.

91. Minister, you travelled to the Tamworth Electorate in July 2023 and you were made aware of the community concern regarding increased crime across the region. What steps have you taken to address these concerns?

- a) Have you spoken to the Police Commissioner and raised these concerns?
- b) Crime continues to occur and members of the Tamworth community are fearing for their safety. What do you say to those people who feel vulnerable?
- c) Are you aware that there are vigilante groups operating in this region and control of the streets is being lost with police unable to protect locals?
- d) Do you have any plans to provide further resources to the Gunnedah Police Station and increase it's operations to 24 hours?
- e) How many more police officers does Gunnedah require to support a 24 hour station?

I am advised:

- a) The Minister for Police and Counter Terrorism has visited the Oxley Police District on a number of occasions and listened to the community, as well as members of the NSWPF. There is also a regular dialogue with the Police Commissioner on matters concerning Oxley PD.
- b) Oxley PD continues to work with members of the wider community and implement strategies to address crime across the entire PD. Oxley PD works collaboratively with specialist commands, and other external stake holders to combat crime. Oxley PD has implemented Operation Regional Mongoose, which is an extremely successful operation focusing on property crime. Operational Regional Mongoose has recorded more than 200 charges involving approximately 100 offenders, as well as dealt with more than 45 young persons being diverted from the criminal justice system.

Oxley PD has seen a significant decrease in property related crime since August 2023, due primarily to the work of Operation Regional Mongoose.

Oxley PD has dedicated staff targeting domestic and family violence (DFV) with 2 additional DV staff to focus on DFV matters. Oxley PD has introduced initiatives to combat these crimes, including DV arrest teams. Oxley PD chairs the SAM process and partner with multiple agencies in addressing support services for domestic violence victims and their families.

- c) Due to the successes of Operation Regional Mongoose and local rostering practices, many offenders have been arrested and are either remanded in custody or are on strict bail conditions. Patrols by this group has diminished and remains limited to posts on social media.
- d) Gunnedah Police Station provides 19-20 hours of rostered coverage dependent on the day of the week. Rostered shifts are set in line with intelligence and criminal activity analysis and remain flexible and adaptive to the needs of the community.

Gunnedah Police Station has an Inspector (Officer in Charge), 2 Sergeants and 14 Constables. This includes two Lock-up Keepers based in Gunnedah, and after-hours response is managed by recall arrangements. The sector is well supported by district resources that are deployed on a flexible and intelligence driven basis.

Further to General Duties staff, 4 Detectives (including 2 Rural Crime Investigators) and 6 officers attached to Traffic and Highway Patrol regularly deployed to Gunnedah.

- e) Allocation of general duties police officers to staff a 24 hours police station would be subject to analysis of local station and community requirements.

92. Eastwood Police Station within the Ryde Police Area Command recently underwent minor rectification works. Are you pleased with the outcomes of this refurbishment work?

- a) Have you spoken directly to the Ryde Branch of the Police Association NSW in relation to these works?

Answer:

No. However, the Minister for Police and Counter-Terrorism holds regular meetings with the executive of the Police Association of New South Wales and welcomes discussion regarding any branch concerns.

93. There are reports police officers have been left to work in substandard and inadequate working conditions with the Labor Government refusing to fund a new fit-for-purpose police centre. Could you explain your understanding of this situation?

I am advised:

Any new police stations are considered as part of the Government's Budget process, and proposals will be considered in due course.

The reference to a 'fit-for-purpose police centre' is unclear as there are no major projects or proposals with this title. Without a location or additional information, the NSW Police Force is unable to provide any further detail.

94. Minister would you not agree that a police officer cannot effectively complete his or her job without the proper environment to do so, which ultimately leaves the community at risk?

I am advised:

The minor capital works budget is allocated as required to address critical needs for NSW police, including urgent capital works and repairs and maintenance as they arise.

95. What budget allocation and investment plans are in place to upgrade and modernise police stations across the state?

I am advised:

Information about allocation to the NSW Police Force Budget in 2023/24, including upgrades to police stations, is available in the 2023/24 Budget Papers.

96. Are there specific police stations that are in more urgent need of renovation and improvements, and what criteria is used to prioritise them?

I am advised:

A range of stations across the property portfolio require some refurbishment or rebuilding. Factors such as capacity, condition and functionality are considered in determining the prioritisation.

97. Are there plans to incorporate technology and digital infrastructure upgrades within police stations to improve communication and data development?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force continues to monitor and assess police station digital requirements.

98. What measures are in place to ensure they are cost effective?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force has rigorous procurement processes in place that are in line with the NSW Government procurement policies and frameworks and utilised for planned upgrades.

99. Can you outline any environmental sustainability or energy efficiency considerations in the plans for police station upgrades?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force is currently reviewing opportunities in incorporating sustainable building materials in new builds and major refurbishments – as outlined in the PEP (Protection of the Environment Policy, sustainable construction: policy principles).

Considerations for police station upgrades include, but are not limited to:

- LED lighting on timed sensors
- Building orientation to take advantage of natural lights
- Reducing Co2 emissions from building materials used and using building materials to limit extreme heating (removal of dark/black surface materials)
- Use of solar and batteries where suitable
- Use of battery powered generators
- native and endemic landscaping,
- Implementing on-site water storage (tanks)
- Use of low VOC chemicals (paint)
- Assessing energy and water ratings for installed appliances
- Installation vehicle charging ports

Officer Wellbeing

100. Would you say the mental toll from the job is one of the biggest contributing factors to the mass exodus of NSW police officers?

I am advised:

It is noted that the incidence of psychological injury is increasing across many sectors, including policing. The NSW Police Force is focussed on the provision of mental health support to its employees and is providing a suite of psychological, health, fitness, safety and injury management initiatives for staff at each stage of their employment.

101. What mental health services are available to police officers in NSW?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force is focussed on the provision of mental health support to its employees.

The NSW Police Force provides a suite of psychological, health, fitness, safety and injury management initiatives for staff at each stage of their employment including, but not limited to, a variety of support services such as access to mental health clinicians and funding assistance to access private psychological treatment.

102. Has the PULSE program been made available to police officers in its entirety?
- How many officers have engaged with the program?
 - How many unsworn officers have engaged with the program?
 - How many people are employed to run this program?
 - Is that enough to deliver this program effectively to all members of the police force and in some cases their families too?

I am advised:

Programs available under the Pulse program are available to both sworn and non-sworn officers/employees and include a wide range of individual supports.

The NSW Police Force is tracking and capturing data since the launch of PULSE program on 1 July 2023, which will inform a comprehensive evaluation. The program will employ an additional 76 employees to facilitate the program.

103. The former NSW Government made a significant investment of \$79 million for the creation and implementation of the PULSE program. Can you confirm this funding is still all allocated to this program?

I am advised:

Yes, the funding remains allocated to the PULSE Program.

104. How many officers engage with the RECON program annually?

I am advised:

For the period between 15 November 2022 to 15 November 2023 503 officers engaged with the program.

- 401 workers engaged with physiotherapy RECON services, 388 (97%) were sworn officers
- 126 workers engaged with psychological RECON services, 115 (91%) of these were sworn officers. 51 (44%) of the sworn officers were regionally based.

105. Is this mainly for psychological or physiological needs?

I am advised:

- 401 workers engaged with physiotherapy RECON services, 388 (97%) were sworn officers
- 126 workers engaged with psychological RECON services, 115 (91%) of these were sworn officers. 51 (44%) of the sworn officers were regionally based.

106. Can you with confidence say that every officer who attends a traumatic event is offered sufficient support and resourcing to manage the mental strain their duties may have caused?

I am advised:

Support is available to every officer. There is no authorisation required to access or activate the various support available. Each Command has access to Incident Support, Peer Support Officers, Chaplaincy and Family Support as do officers individually.

Officers also have access to the Employee Assistance Program and the range of support provided through the PULSE program.

107. What processes are in place to proactively check on the mental health and wellbeing of officers, especially those involved in traumatic events?

I am advised:

Leaders within the NSW Police Force are encouraged to regularly check on the mental health and wellbeing of all employees.

The NSW Police Force welfare support program requires supervisors to maintain contact with employees who are not in the workplace due to injury.

Mental Health Clinicians have been onboarded with the intent that they engage with employees who may be in distress. All NSW Police Force employees will undergo mandatory psychological first aid training throughout 2024-25.

108. Officers can witness more trauma in a shift than some people witness in their lifetime, who is asking if they are okay at the end of the day?

Answer:

See answers to questions 106 and 107.

109. Have you yourself Minister spoken to front line police officers of their experiences and what services they need to feel valued and supported in their profession?

Answer:

Yes.

110. What defines an event as one where more support is offered to officers in attendance?

I am advised:

All employees have access to support services, no matter the incident or event.

111. What mandatory reporting is there for these services?

Answer:

See answer to question 106.

112. Are all psychological services whether that be PULSE, RECON, 24/7 incident support line, chaplaincy, employment assistance or peer support program are all 100% confidential and no mandatory reporting requirements to employers are involved?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force complies with all applicable laws on privacy, including the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* and *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002*.

The NSW Police Force only uses or discloses personal information where legally permitted and/or required and in accordance with our policies.

113. Does the NSW Police Force conduct a wellbeing analysis across the organisation to determine factors such as morale?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force participates in a whole of NSW Government annual employee survey, referred to as the People Matters Employment Survey (PMES).

The PMES asks employees about their experience and perceptions on a range of workplace issues and practices, including wellbeing and morale and the NSW Police Force also asks specific questions relative to its organisation to elicit a more comprehensive sentiment from our employees.

Local business units can also run PULSE surveys. Leaders within the NSW Police Force are expected to understand and track the overall wellbeing of their commands.

114. How is the NSW Police Force actually promoting mental health awareness among its officers?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force actively promotes all of its wellbeing and support programs to the workforce using communication tools such as internal news articles, a dedicated email box, the NSWPF Intranet, video, mobile messaging (flash message), presentations and training and through the use of staff such as: Mental Health Clinicians, Family Support Coordinators, Chief Sports Officer, RECON team, Peer Support Network and Wellbeing Officers.

115. Are there mandatory mental health checks or assessments for officers and if so, how frequently do they occur?

I am advised:

Some specialist high risk units have mandatory mental health assessments, ranging in frequency from quarterly, six-monthly and annually.

116. How does the Police Force handle cases of post-traumatic stress disorder among its officers and what support is offered?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force provides mental health support to all officers.

There is no authorisation required to access or activate the various support available. Each Command has access to Incident Support, Peer Support Officers, Chaplaincy and Family Support, as do officers individually. Officers also have access to the Employee Assistance Program and the range of support provided through the PULSE program.

117. Are their strategies/ initiatives to ensure that officers who retire or leave the force have access to mental health support?

I am advised:

For officers who have left or retired from NSWPF a number of well-being support services are available including but not limited to:

- Family support coordinator
- Chaplaincy
- Employee Assist and Employee Assistance Program
- Police Legacy
- Police transition website

Police Dogs

118. How do police dogs contribute to law enforcement efforts in NSW and what specific roles do they play within the NSW Police Force?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force's Dog and Mounted Command is a state-wide resource with the Dog Command. They provide the following services:

- provision of specialist canine services to assist Policing operations across NSW
- provision of a quality specialised response to requests for assistance through canine resources trained in detection, general purpose, tactical, public order, and search and rescue (USAR) capabilities
- conducting high visibility patrols in support of Police Area Command and Police District intelligence led disruption and prevention activities
- collaborating with internal stakeholders in the provision of specialist support to major events, dignitary visits, emergency incidents and public order operations to provide an integrated response
- contributing to community engagement strategies to enhance the reputation of the NSW Police Force and instil confidence in policing generally
- Provision of specialist canine resources in support of internal and external protocol responsibilities of the NSW Police Force

119. How does the Canine Unit operate and assist NSW Police Force officers?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force Dog Unit is a specialist resource providing operational support to Police Commands, Police Districts and business units across NSW.

Support capabilities of the unit are also used by external agencies and interstate policing jurisdictions. The unit is one of two Australian law enforcement jurisdictions with a cadaver detection capability often used by interstate police forces for their operations. It is the only law enforcement jurisdiction with canine capability supporting USAR operations in Australia.

120. Can you describe the main purposes the police dogs are used for?

I am advised:

General Purpose (GP) dogs

General Purpose (GP) dogs support in the form of tracking and searching of people. GP dogs can also be used as a use of force option in circumstances where assistance is sought by police in the field to protect them or another person against someone behaving in a violent or aggressive manner. They can be used to assist in the apprehension of a person who is actively evading police detention or is armed with a weapon. The Dog Unit has a group of GP dogs specifically trained in Public Order and Specialist Tactical deployments to assist these specialist units.

Drug Detection Dogs

Drug Detection Dogs support through a capability to indicate prohibited drugs in buildings, vehicles, open areas and mail or other storage / luggage receptacles. Drug Detection Dogs also have the capability of people screening.

Explosive Detection Dogs

Explosive Detection Dogs support the field providing a capability to indicate suspected explosive devices and firearms and/or spent ammunition recently fired. Provide general field support and assist specialist resources in search and clearance operations of locations or venues for hallmark and special events in addition to locations for VIP or dignitary visits.

Cadaver Detection Dogs

The NSW Police Force Dog Unit is one of two Australian policing jurisdictions with a Cadaver Detection Dog capability. With the Cadaver Detection capability, the Dog Unit provides field support for operations to indicate the presence of a cadaver.

Blood Detection Dogs and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)

Additional support from the NSW Police Force Dog Unit is through the provision of a blood detection dog capability and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR). The NSW Police Force Dog Unit is the only law enforcement canine body within Australia providing support to emergency services accredited in USAR.

121. Do we have any dogs currently on long service leave?

I am advised:

Police Dogs do not have long service leave.

122. What happens to a police dog once they retire from the NSW Police Force?

I am advised:

The majority of Police Dogs retire to the dog's Handler.

On the rare occasion this does not occur, the dog is rehomed following a rigorous risk assessment of new home, owner and location.

123. How many stations across NSW are resourced with a member of the Canine Unit and have an actively working dog and handler?

- a) Where are they located?
- b) Could you specify how many are used for general purpose, drug detection, firearm and explosive detection and human remain retrieval?

I am advised:

- a) There are no stations with assigned police dogs in the Metropolitan Area, as they are based at the Dog Unit at Menai. However, there are 14 dogs deployed to eight (8) police stations regionally, listed below. The remainder are located at the Dog Unit in Menai.

Wollongong/Lake Illawarra	4
Newcastle	3
Tweed Heads	1
Coffs Harbour	1
Kempsey	2
Dubbo	1
Inverell	1
Tamworth	1

- b) General Purpose Dogs 44
- Drug Detection Dogs 13
- Explosive Detection Dogs 7
- Cadaver Detection Dogs 4
- Blood Detection Dog 1

124. What happens to a dog if the handler goes on long term leave?

I am advised:

If the dog handler goes on annual or extended leave, the option is for the dog to remain with handler or be kennelled at Menai.

If the dog handler goes on long-term sick leave, the dog participates in Re-Team program.

125. What happens to the dog once it is retired?

Answer:

See answer to question 122.

126. What percentage of dogs is rehomed and what happens to those who are not?

I am advised:

100% of dogs have been rehomed in the last five years.

127. What is the investment in training and equipping a dog?

I am advised:

Following an initial 12-week training program, there are ongoing accreditation, training and assessment costs. Costs also vary dependent on breed and duty type.

128. Are there any plans or initiatives to further expand the use of police dogs in law enforcement within NSW or to enhance their capabilities?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force and its Dog and Mounted command are constantly reviewing capabilities and deployment strategies.

Equipment and Sourcing

129. Where are NSW Police Uniforms sourced from? Are they Australian made?

I am advised:

Australian Defence Apparel (ADA) is both a manufacturer and supplier of uniform items to NSWPF. ADA sourced uniforms are typically made overseas. Some specialist items not able to be sourced by ADA are acquired from other suppliers often nominated by NSWPF and have various origins.

130. Is there a review or current consideration to alter the NSW Police Force Uniform?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force's uniform items are frequently reviewed for operational suitability, safety and enhancement.

131. Where are NSW Police Force weapons currently sourced from?

I am advised:

The current (Glock .40 Cal) and new (Glock 9mm) sidearms are manufactured in Austria and purchased through the approved Australian owned distributor.

The NSW Police Force's Tasers (T7 Model) are manufactured in the USA and purchased through an Australian registered business (AXON Public Safety Australia).

OC Spray is manufactured in the USA and acquired through a local NSW based SME.

The approved operational handcuffs for NSWPF are manufactured in Lithgow NSW and sourced from Thales Australia under a long-term agreement.

132. Are you a supporter of Australian made products and the value it brings to local economies?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force supports the NSW Procurement Board policy position regarding engagement of local SMEs, Regional Businesses, Aboriginal and Indigenous owned business.

133. Would you be in favour of sourcing weapons for the NSW Police Force from Australia and more specifically from NSW?

I am advised:

Refer to the answer for question 132.

134. Given you visited Australia's only small arms manufacturer earlier this year and have experienced firsthand their capabilities, what have you done since July to implement or investigate the sourcing of weapons from NSW?

Answer:

Refer to the answer for question 132.

135. What measures need to be taken to allow NSW Police to re-tender their sourcing of weapons to an Australian based manufacturer that would have better servicing capabilities?

Answer:

Refer to the answer for question 132.

136. QLD Police Force has already bought into NSW manufacturing of their weapons and other jurisdictions are in conversations about doing the same. Do you agree it would be a shame to see NSW the last to convert to sourcing locally made equipment?

Answer:

Refer to the answer for question 132.

137. Is there a review or current consideration to alter the NSW Police Force Uniform?

Answer:

See answer to question 130.

138. What is the NSW Police Force's process for procuring and updating police equipment such as firearms and body armor?

Answer:

Refer to answer 132.

139. Can you provide information on the budget allocated for police equipment in this financial year?

I am advised:

Information about allocation to the NSW Police Force Budget in 2023/24 is available in the 2023/24 Budget Papers and the New South Wales Police Force Annual Report.

140. How does the NSW Police Force evaluate the technology and tools used for surveillance and data collection to safeguard privacy?

I am advised:

Police systems that are developed and used for surveillance and data collection are subject to relevant Privacy Regulations and the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) Information Security Manual controls risk assessment (known as IRAP).

IRAP is part of the Home Affairs Protective Security Policy Framework (PSPF) that requires all organisations who process and handle, sensitive or classified data/information to undertake the necessary security risk assessment.

IRAP provides a formal framework to ensure appropriate controls for privacy are in place. Vendors and suppliers who provide this technology are required to undertake the IRAP process, in parallel to the ACSC guidance, on secure by design and secure by default in their products/services. This ensures security of data, which includes privacy requirements are embedded in a system.

141. What's the policy regarding the deployment of non-lethal weapons, say for example tasers and oversight of their use?

I am advised:

There are internal policies and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) aligned with legislation that provide parameters for use and deployment of non-lethal weapons.

142. What measures are in place to ensure officers are adequately trained in the use of new equipment and technology?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force provides an extensive program of face to face and online education and training opportunities, including a mandatory training program that can be organisation wide or dependent on the nature of the equipment and relative to duty type.

Further, specific training programs and materials are developed by subject matter experts, in conjunction with the NSW Police Force's Learning Development and Delivery Command.

143. Are all police officers are adequately trained in the use of tasers?

I am advised:

Yes, training has, and continues, to be delivered.

Domestic Violence

144. Minister are you aware that as of June 30 2023, 15 people are dead due to domestic violence, their have been almost 36,000 home assaults, 21,000 apprehended violence order breaches and 140,000 calls for help?

Answer:

Yes.

145. Looking at those statistics, would you agree that NSW is in a domestic violence 'epidemic'?

Answer:

Yes.

146. How are you as Minister combating the rise of domestic and family violence?

Answer:

I am committed to supporting the NSW Police Force's comprehensive domestic violence strategy.

The NSW Police Force established the Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Reform Project.

The DFV Reform Project developed five strategic objectives:

- focus on the prevention of DFV;
- provide a capable and coordinated response to incidents of DFV;
- develop a DFV Registry to drive targeted prevention, disruption, and investigation responses to DFV;

- develop partners to assist victims' recovery from the consequences of physical and mental abuse; and
- establish service delivery standards and evaluative measures across workplace culture, training, community engagement, incident reporting, investigations, interagency engagement, and prosecutions.

147. Could you explain what measures you have in place to support our police and victims of domestic violence?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force has a range of support services available to all employees to assist in managing their health and wellbeing.

With regard to victims:

- Police must adhere to the Charter of Victim's Rights. Police provide victims with information about support services available when attending incidents. Police follow-up with all victims within seven days of reporting the incident. If the matter is an on-going investigation/case, victims are contacted every 28 days.
- All female victims of domestic violence are referred to the Women's Domestic and Family Violence Court Advocacy Service (WDVCAS) and the male victims are referred to Relationships Australia, after completing a DVSAT assessment with Police. Follow-up with the victim is made by a domestic violence support worker from WDVCAS and support is provided before court, at court and after court. This support assists with other legal and social welfare needs such as safe housing, income support, children's needs, family law and counselling.
- The *Empower You App* was launched in 2023 to provide easier access for victims to support services and to record information.

148. Minister, in NSW police respond to numerous domestic and family violence incidents everyday. Are you aware of the number of how many calls are they responding to every day?

Answer:

Yes, I am advised police respond to one call every four minutes.

149. Would you agree we need to do everything we can to tackle this insidious crime?

Answer:

Yes.

150. Are there Police Area Commands operating without a Domestic Violence Liaison Officer?

I am advised:

All 57 Police Area Commands and Police Districts have at least one Domestic Violence Liaison Officer position.

151. Given domestic and family violence is a rising and serious crime here in NSW don't you think these are important roles to have filled?

Answer:

Yes. See answer to question 150.

152. How long have these roles been vacant at The Hills PAC, Ryde PAC and Hawkesbury PAC?

I am advised:

As at 12 November 2023, the Hawkesbury PAC has one vacant Domestic Violence Liaison Officer position. This is a newly created position. The position was vacant between 24 June 2023 to 16 September 2023. During that time, the role was being performed by an officer in General Duties position and is still performing duties in DV team.

A second substantive position has been created as part of an election commitment, in the Hawkesbury PAC. The position was created on 1 November 2023 and recruitment is underway.

The Ryde PAC has one vacant Domestic Violence Liaison Officer position since 11 November 2023. During this time, duties are currently being performed by an officer in General Duties position.

The Hills PAC has no vacant Domestic Violence Liaison Officer position.

153. What is being done to fill these roles?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force aims to recruit these positions as per its corporate guidelines for recruitment and retention.

154. What recommendations has the force implemented or have you advocated to be implemented from the LECC report regarding the review of NSW Police Force response to domestic and family violence incidents?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force's response to the LECC recommendations is publicly available on the LECC website.

155. What resources are available to help officers understand the psychological dynamics of domestic violence situations?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force have a suite of comprehensive training packages on the psychological dynamics of domestic violence. This includes the Code of Practice for the NSW Police Force Response to Domestic and Family Violence which provides examples of what psychological abuse may include, and the Domestic Violence Fundamentals Course and Domestic Violence Officers Course which explores the harm psychological abuse can cause a victim and children.

156. How can the police encourage victims to come forward and report incidents of domestic violence?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force strongly encourage all victims of crime to report those crimes. The NSW Police Force raise awareness of domestic violence reporting and operations through public awareness campaigns and relationships with government and non-government organisations.

157. What strategies are in place to ensure culturally sensitive responses to domestic violence cases?

I am advised:

When responding to the challenges associated with domestic and family violence, the NSW Police Force accesses its culturally and linguistically diverse workforce via various community liaison programs, interpreters, and other specialist commands. This gives the organisation the capacity to be sensitive to the varied and complex environments in which domestic and family violence occurs.

158. What measures are taken to hold domestic violence offenders accountable?

Answer:

The NSW Police Force play a leading role in perpetrator management, including arresting and charging domestic violence offenders, and applying for ADVOs, alongside the broader justice system's response to domestic and family violence.

The New South Wales Police Force also undertake targeted operations. Operation Amarak is held four times a year and is an offender-focused operation, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of domestic and family violence victims and the broader NSW Community.

Domestic and Family Violence is a key priority for every PAC and PD in the NSW Police Force and is a priority for the Commissioner of Police.

159. How can the police work collaboratively with community organizations to prevent domestic violence and promote education on the issue?

I am advised:

The prevention of domestic and family violence requires a whole of government response. The NSW Police Force consults broadly with Government and non-Government organisations to promote and enhance prevention initiatives, including education.

160. What work has been done with police and external organisations and experts to deliver solutions to the community wide challenge?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force engages in DV Safety Action Meetings (SAMs) meetings, which involve collaboration with other key agencies to address DFV on the ground level.

The NSW Police Force is an active partner of the DFV Board NSW and numerous other steering committees and working groups, which all aim to work collaboratively to address DFV. The NSW Police Force has engaged with many other agencies to deliver projects, for example the WDVCS Co-location trial.

161. What training programs are available to police officers for handling domestic violence cases effectively?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force delivers a range of training courses which relate to domestic and family violence, for example the Domestic and Family Violence Fundamentals Course.

162. What are the procedures for documenting and collecting evidence in domestic violence cases?

I am advised:

The DFV Standard Operating Procedures govern police activity in investigating DFV offences.

163. How can officers assess the risk level of a domestic violence situation and prioritize their response?

I am advised:

Police will treat all reports of DV as genuine. Police will obtain as much information as possible at the time of the report and priority is determined following receipt of all available information.

164. Are there specialized units or officers dedicated to handling domestic violence cases within the police department?

I am advised:

Yes. The specialised units and teams dedicated to handling DV cases include:

- Domestic and Family Violence Registry

- DV Team Leaders
- DV Officers
- DV Operatives
- Specialist DV Prosecutors
- DFV Strategic Intelligence
- High Risk Offender Teams
- DV Intelligence Targeting Team

165. What steps can be taken to ensure the safety of victims when responding to a domestic violence call?

I am advised:

Police will take all steps necessary to ensure the safety of victims and officers when responding to a domestic violence call.

166. What steps can be taken to ensure the safety of officers when responding to a domestic violence call?

Answer:

See answer 165.

167. Are there protocols for working with child protection agencies when children are involved in domestic violence situations?

I am advised:

Police are required to complete a child-at-risk (CAR) incident when there are children (under 18 years of age) present, a witness to, or reside with a party involved in a domestic violence incident.

Additionally, there are legislative requirements, including:

- Officers of the NSW Police Force are mandatory reporters as per section 27 of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* (the Act).
- Section 248 of the Act outlines the provision and exchange of information between a prescribed body (NSW Police Force) and Department of Communities and Justice.
- Chapter 16A of the Act outlines the provision and exchange of information between prescribed bodies, including the NSW Police Force.

168. Are there protocols for working with child protection agencies when children are involved in domestic violence situations?

Answer:

See answer 167.

169. How does the police department monitor and address potential bias or discrimination in domestic violence responses?

I am advised:

The DFV SOPs govern police responses to domestic violence. Existing domestic violence training packages address potential bias or discrimination in domestic violence responses.

170. How are police officers provided with emotional support and resources to cope with the challenges of dealing with domestic violence cases?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force has a range of support services available to all employees to assist in managing their health and wellbeing, including PULSE and EAP.

171. What measures are taken to hold domestic violence offenders accountable?

I am advised:

See answer to question 158.

172. How can the police work collaboratively with community organizations to prevent domestic violence and promote education on the issue?

Answer:

See answer to question 159.

Blue Ribbon Insurance Scheme

173. Do you agree the Police Blue Ribbon Insurance Scheme is a critical scheme for Police officers injured in the line of duty?

I am advised:

The Government will always protect injured workers. The Police Blue Ribbon Insurance (PBRI) is a piece of that framework.

174. Have you started budgeting to keep the Police Blue Ribbon Scheme in the same format for the next four years as stated by your Government's election commitment?

Answer:

The NSW Government will provide the necessary funding to support workforce needs. PBRI is an insurance product sensitive to industry and market factors.

175. What are the budgetary impacts of this over the next four years?

I am advised:

Premiums are sensitive to industry, market and risk share factors.

176. Where is this listed in the budget forecast?

I am advised:

The Budget allocation for the PBRI is included in the Employee Related Expenses (ERE) Budget as disclosed in the 2023-24 State Budget papers.

177. What specific challenges do police officers in NSW face in terms of work-related injuries and their potential long-term impact on their health and career?

I am advised:

The challenges for all NSW Police officers are unique. Due to the nature of the Police work, officers are regularly exposed to challenging and traumatic events. The NSW Police Force has extensive, well researched and structured approach to the support of all employees through a suite of programs and initiatives. Furthermore, the ongoing and contemporary education and training of Police is structured to ensure they are prepared and supported to undertake their duties.

The NSW Police Force policies and approaches support a return to meaningful work as soon as possible.

178. How does the current Blue Ribbon Insurance Scheme for injured police officers in NSW address their medical and financial needs?

I am advised:

PBRI provides insurance coverage for injured police officers.

179. Can you provide information on the coverage and benefits the scheme provides for police?

I am advised:

PBRI comprises an on-duty income protection component that pays up to 75% plus 17% loading for up to seven years, total permanent disablement (TPD) lump sum and death benefit lump sum.

It also provides off duty income protection that pays up to 75% plus 17% loading for up to two years.

180. What is the current cost of the scheme over the past four years?

I am advised:

The PBRI premium is included in the NSW Police Force ERE budget which can be found in the Financial Statements in the published NSW Police Force Annual Reports.

181. What work has been done in costing the scheme for the future?

I am advised:

Costing impacts will be determined noting that premiums are sensitive to industry, market and risk share factors.

182. What is estimated cost for the scheme to continue for the next four years?

Answer:

See answer to question 181.

183. Should the current Police Blue Ribbon Insurance Scheme continue in its existing form?

Answer:

Please see the answer to 173.

184. Do you have an alternative suggestion or recommendations for improvement?

Answer:

See answer to question 173.

Rural Crime

185. Minister what is your message to NSW residents living in regional areas who statistically more likely to be a victim of crime and will be subject to a delayed response from Police due to a lack of resourcing?

I am advised:

Responding to victims is a key priority for all police working in regional areas.

Whilst the realities of distance, workforce size and other factors do impact upon response times in regional areas, the NSW Police Force always prioritises community safety.

Scrutinisation of response times through internal governance mechanisms is a focus within regional NSW, along with ongoing reflection and analysis of Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) data to inform effective roster planning and deployment of resources.

186. What are you doing to help those communities in the Far West and Orana Region?

Answer:

The NSW Police Force works tirelessly to protect the communities from crime and the fear of crime, including in the Western Region. This is achieved through strong community engagement. The focus on strong stakeholder engagement with both Government and Non-government organisations within each individual community provides an effective platform for Police and Community connection.

Community safety and security messaging is a priority within the Region, and the Police capacity to prevent and disrupt criminal behaviour is strengthened by active engagement with community groups, Local Government and other stakeholder organisations and community leaders.

187. The Far West and Orana Region has endured the biggest jump in motor vehicle theft with a 38.5% increase, while the Coffs Harbour region is home to the worst numbers for domestic violence assaults with a 23.1% increase. What are you doing to keep these communities safe and resource our police?

I am advised:

To address the issue related to motor vehicle theft in the Far West and Orana region, the NSW Police Force's Western Region has established Operation Regional Mongoose, focusing on Youth Crime, and the establishment of a number of successful Rural Crime related strike forces.

These strike forces and operations, coupled with other surge operations including the regular deployment of resources such as Polair, Traffic and Highway Patrol Command and other specialist support units has achieved significant results and enhanced community safety.

The Western Region within the NSW Police Force has established the Western Region Operations Support Group (OSG) unit in 2023, forming a capability enhancement for the whole Western Region based in Dubbo. The aim is to respond to issues that require a public order response, search warrant specialist tactical resource, crime suppression and public reassurance during periods of high crime, specialist search functionality and major event policing.

A number of youth diversion strategies are a priority in Western Region for the reduction of youth crime including Walwaay, Aboriginal Youth Team, Fight for success and other PCYC programs. The introduction of Youth Action Meetings (YAMS) and YAMS co-ordinators in selected Police Districts provides an effective platform for cross agency collaboration with regard to young offenders and youth at risk.

188. Minister, Police Officers are claiming they are burnt out, tired and exhausted in the Hunter Valley. They have had a 14.1% increase in domestic violence assaults and a 31% rise in motor thefts. What are you doing to support them?

I am advised:

The Hunter Valley Police District Senior Leadership Team promote a culture of health and wellbeing throughout the workplace and provide education packages to support and build resilience for staff health and wellbeing.

Police within the Hunter Valley Police District are supported by PULSE program which focusses on health, safety and wellbeing initiatives. This support includes a Mental Health Clinician (MHC) who regularly meets with officers to provide support with a focus on wellbeing and guidance in relation to mental health issues.

The Northern Region within the NSW Police Force promotes the *'Our People/Our Health'*, a suite of initiatives rolled out region wide and includes additional resources to support the

mental and physical health of our employees, the principles of which are captured within the NSW Police Force Health and Safety Strategy 2021-2026.

189. Minister, motor vehicle theft increased in every regional area, where it was recorded in the past two years - Newcastle and Lake Macquarie offences rose 299%, the Central 16.3% - often committed by juveniles. What measures are you putting in place to tackle this trend?

I am advised:

Operation Regional Mongoose was established to provide a high-visibility policing response to tackle serious property-related crime, including motor vehicle thefts, committed predominately by young offenders. This Operation commenced in 2022 and is ongoing, operating within the Northern and Western Regions. There are strong collaborative efforts between the Police Districts to prevent and disrupt young offenders who commit offences and associate freely between districts.

For example, in July 2023, a Tri-District operation was held within the Hunter and Central Coast region to proactively target recidivist youth property offenders. Intelligence between Districts was freely shared to maximise each district's tactical and strategic approaches in targeting these offenders.

All Police Districts continue to focus on the identification and appropriate prosecution of offenders in this crime category. It has also been recognised that identifying and acting on opportunities to engage youth who are involved in offending has also been complimentary to response efforts. Work is continuing in conjunction with Department of Communities and Justice and other government agencies to provide diversionary opportunities to reduce the likelihood of further offending.

190. Minister, the Police Association, the Country Mayors Association and NSW Farmers all support a Parliamentary Inquiry to address crime in regional NSW. With domestic violence up, abduction, kidnapping, robberies, break and enters, motor vehicle theft, stealing, possession of ecstasy, trespassing etc all up. Surely you would welcome a Parliamentary Inquiry that can better support these communities and ensure they feel safe?

Answer:

A parliamentary inquiry is not the best way to tackle crime in regional areas.

Senior police are focussed on immediate proactive policing and crime prevention activities in their communities, including through targeted Strikeforce and Taskforce operations, surge capabilities, and through activities in partnership with PCYCs.

Waiting for an inquiry to hand down a report in 12 to 18 months will only delay actions to tackle this problem.

191. What strategies are deployed by police to enhance community engagement in regional and rural areas?

Answer:

Please refer to answers 186-189.

192. Are there specific programs/ partnerships to address issues like livestock theft or property crime in rural areas?

I am advised:

- Future Proofing Rural Crime – The RCPT is constantly researching new technology to increase the resilience of primary producers against rural crime. An example of this includes the participation of the RCPT during a mock stock theft to enable the UNE to evaluate the application of GPS Smart animal ear tags to improve farm security, which is believed to be a world's first, recovering stolen stock in 23 minutes.
- Tackling Rural Crime Workshops
- Operation Fortress – Target hardening of repeat rural crime victims and locations commenced and being implemented state-wide.
- Monthly Meetings with NSWFA Regional Managers to enhance communication, collaboration, and engagement with the rural industry
- Significant open-source material, templates, and resources to inform, aid and target harden rural communities in respect to these crimes and other
- Operation Stock Check – a high visibility police strategy to prevent, disrupt and respond to stolen livestock. This is an ongoing operation by the NSW Police Force that has been adopted by other jurisdictions.

193. How do you ensure police officers in regional and rural areas receive adequate training and resources to deal with the many challenges?

I am advised:

- Internal Training – The RCPT has develop training to enhance the capability of all of its officers providing a higher quality of service to rural communities. Training include Rural Crime Education Program, various SMITs such as Animal Cruelty and Stock Theft.
- Operation Stock Check Training available for all police – 4,237 officers have completed this training.
- External agencies training to provide RCIs training regarding Fit to Load, Safe Handling of Livestock and National Livestock Identification System.
- The Biannual Nationally Accredited RCI Course was attended in 2022 by NSW Police Force, along with officers from NT, SA, QLD, VIC, WA, Tasmania and New Zealand.
- The RCPT regularly presents THPC and PD Training Days in respect to rural crime, increasing the knowledge and operational capability of those officers.
- The RCPT has developed significant internal resources to aid the reporting, response and investigation of rural crimes.
- The RCPT has developed a daily rural crime briefing to enable timely review, assessment, support, and carriage of rural crimes throughout NSW in support of all PD/PACs.

194. With rural crime trending up - are there more officers to be allocated to rural crime investigator roles in addition to current positions?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force has a dedicated Rural Crime Prevention Team.

No further officers will be allocated, the team has increased to 63 specialised officers.

Western Sydney

195. Minister, could you provide an update on Taskforce Magnus?

I am advised:

Since its launch on 27 July 2023 to 6 November 2023, Taskforce Magnus has achieved:

- 399 Arrests
- 2,277 Charges
- 243 Firearms Prohibition Orders searches
- 81 Search Warrants executed
- 15 Crime Scene Warrants executed
- Seizure of 52 firearms and 1,520 rounds of ammunition
- Seizure of cocaine, MDMA, cannabis, methylamphetamine and steroids with a street value of approximately \$4 million
- Seizure of over \$1.2 million cash, 52 cars, as well as luxury watches and jewellery
- Seizure of both stolen and cloned registration plates

196. Are all 100 police officers still assigned to Taskforce Magnus?

I am advised:

As at 6 November 2023, Taskforce Magnus is staffed by 56 Criminal Investigators and 67 Officers, supported by a number of specialist police within the NSW Police Force as well as external agencies.

197. Minister, are you satisfied if Police Stations in Western Sydney are closing their doors at night because they are under resourced?

Answer:

See answer to question 76.

198. Could you tell us which stations you are aware of that have closed over the past 6 months due to a lack of police?

Answer:

See answer to question 76.

199. Do closed stations in Western Sydney impact on response times in areas where we have seen shootings, gang warfare, and community fear?

Answer:

See answer to question 76.

200. What measures did you put in place to make sure those communities felt safe at those times?

I am advised:

Alternative arrangements were put in place and communicated with the local community.

201. Minister, the toughest laws were introduced by the former government to target money laundering and unexplained wealth. These laws were about keeping the the community safe and disrupting organised criminal networks. Under these new laws, how much has been seized by organised criminal detectives in this short period of time?

I am advised:

Legislative amendments to the *Criminal Assets Recovery Act 1990* commenced on 1 February 2023 that help the Crime Commission to proactively identify, target, and disrupt organised criminal networks (OCNs) by seizing their wealth.

This legislative change enables the NSW Crime Commission and NSW Police to carry out specific investigations into unexplained wealth, without the need to link it to an alleged criminal offence.

The NSW Government announced funding on 30 July 2023 for the NSW Crime Commission to create a multi-disciplinary team to utilise these amendments effectively and work closely with the NSW Police to target criminal wealth.

Since that time, the value of interests in property restrained from these actions is estimated to be more than \$7 million. This is the result of a significant joint operation executed in September 2023.

In addition, since their introduction on 1 February 2023, the NSWCC has issued 13 administrative forfeiture notices for over \$7 million to the state.

202. Minister, can you also explain how the \$2.1 million investment in the new Criminal assets Confiscation Team will work?

I am advised:

The NSW Crime Commission recently established a multidisciplinary team focusing on unexplained criminal wealth called the Criminal Assets Confiscation Team (CACT).

CACT operations aim to prevent, disrupt, and reduce serious and organised crime through the targeting of criminally derived unexplained wealth. The CACT has powers to commence action in the Supreme Court to freeze assets and confiscate the proceeds of crime.

The CACT is working closely with current investigations to identify opportunities to use the new confiscation powers to disrupt organised and other serious crime (including restricting further offending of organised crime networks by depriving them of sources to fund further offending, including violent crime).

The CACT also undertakes investigations with the assistance of the NSW Police Organised Crime Squad. The Commission has sought two restraining orders in matters involving the CACT with more planned.

203. Is it operational now?

I am advised:

Yes. The CACT was established on 1 August 2023.

204. If not, when will it commence?

Answer:

Please refer to question 203.

205. What role does it undertake?

Answer:

Please refer to question 201 and question 202.

206. What strategies are the Police force implementing to address the rise in gang related violence in the city?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force Raptor Squad conducts high-impact proactive policing operations targeting gang members and their associates with the aim of preventing crimes and conflict involving these groups.

The Raptor Squad continues to work collaboratively with other State and Federal law enforcement, intelligence and government agencies to combat gang related violence.

The Raptor Squad is recognised internationally as a leader in combatting Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMCGs) in the preventative and disruption model.

207. What efforts/initiatives are being undertaken in the city to reduce shootings?

I am advised:

On 27 July 2023, the NSW Police Force announced Taskforce Magnus to coordinate investigations and operations to target those involved in recent public place shootings and associated organised criminal activities. Investigators, expertise and resources are pooled

from across the entire NSW Police Force, including from all of the State Crime Command's specialist squads.

Investigating officers are provided with a full suite of capabilities and an arsenal of resources to find those responsible and end the violence on our streets. Further, the State Crime Command has increased its focus on firearm supply networks to reduce the number of firearms in our community.

208. What technology/ tools are being used to monitor and track criminal activities related to gangs and drugs?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force's Drug and Firearms Squad continues to detect and disrupt those involved in manufacturing drugs. This includes tracking and dismantling clandestine drug laboratories. The Squad works closely with industries exploited/infiltrated by organised crime including chemical suppliers to identify suspicious purchases of precursor chemicals.

Intelligence sharing and joint taskforces with partner agencies has resulted in successfully combating large crime syndicates operating in, or targeting, the state.

Strike Force Chellington was established to investigate the importation of illicit drugs into NSW and conducted Australia's largest Ice seizure (more than 2.1 tonnes); and the arrests of 10 people as well as the discovery of equipment capable of being used in the manufacture of illicit drugs.

209. What support and assistance are offered to individuals seeking to leave gangs and find alternative pathways?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force has a suite of programs and initiatives all designed to support youth at risk and youth engaged in criminal activity.

Operation Pivot is a Youth Command initiative developed to prevent, disrupt and respond to the occurrence of youth violence throughout NSW. This is achieved through:

- Engagement and early intervention
- Prevention and education
- Diversionary opportunities and referral to local PCYC and external partners and services
- Minimise harm and positively influence behaviour in public space areas
- Positive rapport building with local youth
- Encouraging young people to make positive choices and decisions in relation to violence

The Anti-violence video was recorded in 2022 using a platform of high-profile sporting influencers and a cohort of youth from the PCYC Haka Warrior program. This video has been presented 1,886 times to 187,836 students in schools, youth justice centres and community events.

In 2024, the NSW Police Force will partner with the NRL and Youth Justice to deliver project Pathfinder, a youth mentoring program.

Project Community is a joint partnership between the NSW Police Force and Youth Justice through which police from Youth Command support young people as they are released from Youth Justice Centres into the community.

Firearms Registry

210. A review of the Firearms Registry was conducted last year with the report handed in in the first quarter of this year. Have you seen the report?

Answer:

Yes.

211. Can you summarise the findings of the report to the committee?

Answer:

The was a report commissioned and subsequently not accepted or released by the former Minister.

212. Minister, have you visited the firearms registry?

Answer:

No.

213. Are you aware that there are over one million registered firearms across NSW?

Answer:

Yes.

214. Can you explain how the Gun Safe platform for dealers and customers works?

I am advised:

Information regarding the Gun Safe platform can be found on the Firearms Registry website via the following links:

<https://portal.police.nsw.gov.au/s/article/Firearm-Applications-Help-Centre>

https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/online_services/firearms/firearms_dealers,_theatrical_armourers_and_club_armourers

215. When will the McKechnie Review be released publicly?

Answer:

See answer to question 211.

216. Minister, we saw a tragic incident earlier this year where a father (Wayne Smith) shot himself and his son (Noah) in the most horrific of scenes. At the time you said you would review firearm licenses, and this would be done before the coronial inquest. What have you done?

I am advised:

Advice from the NSW Chief Psychiatrist is being considered by the Government and the NSW Police Force.

217. Who have you spoken to about the introduction of a mandatory lockout period for people who have their gun licenses revoked over mental health issues?

Answer:

Please refer to answer for question 216.

218. In relation to the firearms registry, have they moved into their new premises yet?

I am advised:

No

219. Is it fully staffed?

I am advised:

Yes

220. How many staff are employed?

I am advised:

As at 19 November 2023, the Firearms Registry has 89 staff (5 sworn and 84 unsworn)

221. What is the backlog of firearms licence renewals?

I am advised:

As at 23 November 2023, there is no backlog of licence renewals.

222. What's the average time for processing a license?

I am advised:

The average time to process a firearms licence application is 33 days.

BOCSAR Statistics

223. Have you read the latest crime trends report release by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force reviews each BoCSAR quarterly Recorded Crime Statistics Report. The latest report is the June Quarter 2023.

224. What are the key trends and changes in overall crime rates in NSW based on the latest statistics?

I am advised:

Please refer to the NSW BOCSAR "New South Wales Recorded Crime Statistics" Quarterly Update June Quarter 2023.

225. Can you provide an overview of the most significant types of crime that have shown an increase or decrease in recent data?

Answer:

Please refer to the NSW BOCSAR "New South Wales Recorded Crime Statistics" Quarterly Update June Quarter 2023.

226. What are the geographic areas of regions in NSW where crime rates have notably shifted in the latest report?

Answer:

Please refer to the NSW BOCSAR "New South Wales Recorded Crime Statistics" Quarterly Update June Quarter 2023.

227. What have you done to address those concerns and how have the police adjusted to address this?

Answer:

The NSW Police Force ensures that there are an adequate number of on-duty police officers to meet demand.

The NSW Police Force uses intelligence driven rostering and strategies to target known offenders and crime hot spots by deploying police to places where crime may be expected to occur.

228. What conversations did you have with the Commissioner about appropriate resourcing in certain areas?

I am advised:

The Commissioner and the New South Wales Police Force are best placed to determine the specific operational and resourcing needs of Commands across the state.

229. Minister, are you concerned by the increase in blackmail and extortion over the past two years?

I am advised:

Any increase in crime is concerning. I am advised that the increase is due to a change of methodology in how the NSW Police Force record 'sextortion' incidents.

230. Could I raise with you the fact that Blackmailing and Extortion has risen by 930.9% in the last 2 years. What resourcing are you providing Police to tackle this matter?

I am advised:

A change of methodology has caused the increase in this area of crime.

BOCSAR notes that the increase in blackmail and extortion offence numbers in the most recent reporting period is due to a change in how NSW Police record 'sextortion' incidents. From mid-2022, sextortion offences are recorded as extortion. Previously they were recorded as fraud. As such, the series prior to mid-2022 is not comparable to the series after this time for this offence.

231. Are you able to provide context from the NSW Police Force from their intelligence as to why there has been such a dramatic increase in this area of crime?

I am advised:

A change of methodology has caused the increase in this area of crime.

BOCSAR notes that the increase in blackmail and extortion offence numbers in the most recent reporting period is due to a change in how NSW Police record 'sextortion' incidents. From mid-2022, sextortion offences are recorded as extortion. Previously they were recorded as fraud. As such, the series prior to mid-2022 is not comparable to the series after this time for this offence.

232. This report has been out for two months now, in this time what actions have you taken as Police Minister to reallocate or adjust resourcing to combat these spikes in crime?

Answer:

Please refer to answer 228.

233. Do you rely on the latest trends or data to assist with Police resourcing in this state?

I am advised:

Please refer to answer 228.

234. Would you say that Regional and Rural Crime is becoming increasingly challenging?

I am advised:

Response to regional crime is commensurate with the seriousness of the incidents and the impact of crime on community safety.

235. Where are you seeing the largest spikes in crime related activity across NSW?

I am advised:

Please refer to the NSW BOCSAR "New South Wales Recorded Crime Statistics" Quarterly Update June Quarter 2023.

236. What are the key trends?

I am advised:

Please refer to the NSW BOCSAR "New South Wales Recorded Crime Statistics" Quarterly Update June Quarter 2023.

237. What initiatives have the Police introduced in the last six months to address some of the concerns raised by BOCSAR?

Answer:

See answer to question 227.

Police Stations

238. How many police stations are being refurbished?

I am advised:

Information about budgeted station refurbishments are available in the Budget papers and the NSWPF Annual Report.

Further, minor refurbishments and upgrades to police station and premises will be delivered through the minor capital works program.

239. Could you provide a list of these stations?

Answer:

Information about station refurbishments are available in the Budget papers and the NSWPF Annual Report.

240. How many new stations are being built over the next four years?

Answer:

Information about new police stations are available in the Budget papers and the NSWPF Annual Report.

241. Can you provide a full list?

Answer:

Information about new police stations are available in the Budget papers and the NSWPF Annual Report.

242. What is the cost of each of these refurbishments and rebuilds for the individual police station?

Answer:

The cost of refurbishments and rebuilds are available in the Budget papers and the NSWPF Annual Report.

243. How many one maned live in police stations are currently vacant?

I am advised:

at 6 December 2023, 20 lockup keeper positions where the lockup keeper was a single-person police unit are currently vacant.

NSWPF is actively advertising the vacant positions and positions may have subsequently been filled after 6 December 2023.

244. Could you provide a list of the locations?

I am advised that at single-manned stations:

8 lockup keeper positions are vacant in the Southern Region, 1 lockup keeper position is vacant in Northern Region, and 11 lockup keeper positions are vacant in Western Region.

NSWPF is actively advertising the vacant positions and positions may have subsequently been filled.

Hospital emergency department call-outs

245. Can you please provide the number of times, for each hospital emergency department, NSW Police have been called to manage an incident involving a patient or visitor in 2023?

I am advised:

This data is not available as it is not possible to definitively search by, and determine the specific location within a hospital (e.g. emergency department), or whether the incident relates specifically to a patient or visitor.

246. How many of these incidents involved a weapon?

Answer:

There were 27 incidents at Premise Type>Hospital with an involved weapon reported between 1 January 2023 and 14 November 2023.

247. How many of these incidents have resulted in someone being detained or arrested?

Answer:

A total of 1,770 incidents at Premise Type>Hospital linked to a charge reported between 1 January 2023 and 14 November 2023.

Hunter

248. What are your primary responsibilities as the Minister for Hunter?

Answer:

To ensure the needs and interests of residents in the Hunter region are clearly represented within NSW Government, using local knowledge and expertise to identify opportunities, escalate issues, and champion the region. As part of this representation, I am also working with my colleagues to establish, shape and deliver NSW government priorities in the Hunter.

249. How many hours per week would you say you spend on the portfolio of the Hunter, excluding Swansea electorate responsibilities?

Answer:

I work across Police, Counter-Terrorism, and the Hunter portfolios as required. No set 'hours' are in place for the Hunter portfolio and commitments fluctuate on a week-by-week basis.

250. Since you were appointed Minister for the Hunter three months ago, how many visits have you made specifically as the Minister for the Hunter, not including those in your electorate of Swansea?

I am advised:

Meetings and visits are published via the Ministers' diary disclosures log:
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures>.

251. How briefs as Minister for Hunter would your office receive per week, on average?

Answer:

As Minister for the Hunter, my office receives briefs as required on a range of matters relevant to the Hunter.

Department Liaison Officers

252. In relation to DLO Secondments in your office, have you or your office ever requested specific public servants to fill DLO positions in your office?

Answer:

No.

253. Can you confirm, DLOs while seconded to your office have not undertaken work that would contravene the Cabinet Memorandum?

Answer:

No, DLOs have not undertaken such work.

254. Have any Department Liaison Officers (DLOs) in the Minister's office engaged or are engaging in party political work and/or activities?

Answer:

No.

255. Did the Minister or any Ministerial staff have any involvement in the recruitment or employment of DLO staff?

Answer:

No.

256. Have any DLOs in the Minister's office been included in meetings where party political matters were discussed?

Answer:

No.

257. Have any DLO positions been advertised publicly?

I am advised:

Yes

258. Have any recruitment services been engaged for the employment of DLOs?

I am advised:

No

259. If yes:
- a) What companies were engaged?
 - b) Were the positions advertised?
 - c) What was the cost of the recruitment services?
 - d) What was the cost of the advertising?
 - e) Were any individuals interviewed by the Minister or staff within the Minister's office?
 - f) Were any DLOs subsequently employed?
 - g) Were any DLOs employed on a contract or fixed term basis or were they employed as on-going departmental employees?

Answer:

Not applicable.

260. In relation to DLO Secondments in your office, have you or your office ever requested specific public servants to fill DLO positions in your office?

Answer:

No

Staffing

261. How many staff in the Minister's office advise on the following portfolios:
- a) Police?
 - b) Counter-Terrorism?
 - c) Hunter?

Answer:

I am advised:

Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>

Discretionary Fund

262. Does the Minister have any discretionary funds in relation to her portfolio responsibilities relating to Police and Counter-Terrorism?

Answer:

Yes.

263. If yes, what is the total amount that has been made available to the Minister?

Answer:

\$100,000 for 2023-24 financial year.

264. How much has already been expended?

Answer:

As at 15 November 2023, an amount of \$31,000 has been expended.

265. What is the dollar value breakdown on what the discretionary funds have been expended on?

Answer:

- \$19,000 paid to PCYC NSW Ltd to provide diversionary crime prevention programs across Mid North Coast Police District;
- \$10,000 paid to NSW Police Legacy to provide NSW Police Legacy Education Grants; and
- \$2,000 to the NSW Police Force for the Irene Juergens Fellowship Awards recipients.

266. Does the Minister have any discretionary funds in relation to her portfolio responsibilities relating to the Hunter?

Answer:

No.

267. If yes, what is the total amount that has been made available to the Minister?

Answer:

Not applicable, please refer to Question 266.

268. How much has already been expended?

Answer:

Not applicable, please refer to Question 266.

269. What is the dollar value breakdown on what the discretionary funds have been expended on?

Answer:

Not applicable, please refer to Question 266.

270. Were any funds expended by the Member for Newcastle while the Minister for the Hunter?

Answer:

Not applicable, please refer to Question 266.

271. If yes, how much was expended?

Answer:

Not applicable, please refer to Question 266.

272. What is the dollar value breakdown on what the discretionary funds were expended on?

Answer:

Not applicable, please refer to Question 266.

Cancellation of Supercars race in Newcastle

273. What is your opinion on the Newcastle 500? Is it an event that the NSW Government will continue to fund?

I am advised:

As the Minister for Jobs and Tourism has indicated publicly, the NSW Government was supportive of the Newcastle 500 returning in 2024 and was in the process of negotiating a longer-term deal in good faith.

274. Were you involved in any discussions with her colleagues or stakeholders the Supercars race in Newcastle, which was cancelled on 19 October.

Answer:

No.

275. If yes – which stakeholders did you discuss this with?

Answer:

Not applicable.

276. Previously, have you ever been supportive of hosting the Supercars race in Newcastle?

Answer:

Yes, the event is good for the region.

277. Have you ever attended the Supercars race in Newcastle in the past?

Answer:

No.

278. Do you believe the Supercars race in Newcastle should happen again?

Answer:

I hope so, the event is good for the region.

279. Have you been hosted by Supercars at any races or events in the past 18 months?

Answer:

No

280. Do you believe the Newcastle 500 is good or bad for small business and why?

I am advised:

The Newcastle 500 brings tourists and investment to our region and state, hence why the Government supports the event.

281. How long does the Government want the next contract, if it ever happens, to be for the race?

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Sport.

282. Is it the Government's preference to negotiate a new five year contract for the Newcastle Supercars race?

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Sport.

283. Why did the Government only offer a one year contract to hold the Newcastle Supercars race for 2024?

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Sport.

284. Did you have any discussions with the Mayor of Newcastle, Nuatali Nelmes, about the Supercars race?

Answer:

No.

285. Do you agree with the Newcastle Mayor that council and the local state MPs have to all agree on the future of the race?

I am advised:

The Newcastle 500 brings tourists and investment to our region and state, hence why the Government supports the event.

286. What economic analysis has the Government conducted into the economic benefits of the Newcastle 500 Supercars race for the local community?

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Sport.

287. Motorsport news website Speedcafe has reported that the consultation by the City of Newcastle "appeared to include some anomalous responses" and could not exclude the possibility of the same person responding multiple times. Do you trust the results of the Council conducted survey?

Answer:

That is a matter for Newcastle City Council, as the survey was conducted by the council.

288. Will the State Government conduct their own survey into community support for the Newcastle 500?

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Sport.

289. Whilst the event for 2024 has been cancelled, will you be supportive of a return of the race to Newcastle from 2025 onwards?

I am advised:

Please see the answer to question 273.

Tomaree Lodge

290. Have you met with the Member for Port Stephens in relation to Tomaree Lodge?

Answer:

No

291. If so, what date/s?

Answer:

Not applicable, please refer to Question 290.

Meetings as Minister for the Hunter

292. How many meetings have you held specifically as the Minister for the Hunter, not including those in your electorate of Swansea?

I am advised:

Meetings and visits are published via the Ministers' diary disclosures log:
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures>.

293. How many Mayors from the Hunter Region have you met since you were appointed Hunter Minister on 3 August 2023, specifically to discuss the region?

I am advised:

Meetings and visits are published via the Ministers' diary disclosures log:
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures>.

Maitland Hospital

294. Why was the Government lauding the \$471 million committed to Maitland Hospital (on page 32 of the Regional Budget Statement) as if it was their own, when \$460 million of that figure was invested previously?

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Health.

295. Was the Government attempting to mislead the public by pretending the \$471 million was new funding?

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Health.

296. Do you think it is right for the Government to mislead the public?

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Health.

John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct

297. Why was no new money announced for the John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct?

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Health.

Cessnock Hospital Redevelopment

298. Why was no new money announced for the Cessnock Hospital Redevelopment?

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Health.

299. Why will only \$4.605 million be spent in 2023-24?

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Health.

300. When does the Minister expect the bulk of the funding will be delivered?

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Health.

301. When will the redevelopment be completed?

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Health.

Tomaree Hospital

302. Will the Government commit any funding to Tomaree Hospital, after it was left out of the Budget?

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Health.

Roads and Transport

303. Why did the Government attempt to make people believe the \$355.1 million for the M1 Extension to Raymond Terrace was new funding, when the planning and funding

agreement between the NSW Government and Commonwealth was completed, and major contractors announced under the former Coalition Government?

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Regional Transport.

304. The \$77 million for the Hexham Straight Upgrade was not new funding in this Budget, when the planning and funding agreement between the NSW Government and Commonwealth was completed, and major contractors were announced under the former Coalition Government. Why is Labor so reliant on Coalition achievements to prop up its flimsy budget?

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Regional Transport.

305. When will funding be allocated for Section 2 of the Nelson Bay Road Upgrade?

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Regional Transport.

306. Is the Government committed to extending the Newcastle Light Rail?

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Regional Transport.

Education

307. What is the current status of the Hunter River High School upgrade?

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Education.

308. When does the Minister expect the Hunter River High School upgrade will be completed?

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Education.

309. What is the current status of Irrawang High School?

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Education.

310. When does the Minister expect Irrawang High School will be completed?

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Education.

311. What is the current status of the Newcastle Education Campus?

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Education.

312. When does the Minister expect the Newcastle Education Campus will be completed?

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Education.

Staffing and Departmental matters as Minister for the Hunter

313. What department supports your responsibilities as Minister from the Hunter?

I am advised:

The Department of Regional NSW.

314. How many departmental staff are allocated specifically to this portfolio?

I am advised:

The Department of Regional NSW currently has 14 staff based in the Hunter who assist in delivering both Ministerial and NSW Government regional priorities and support the delivery of place-based outcomes in the Hunter region. Staff within the Department of Regional NSW also provide a range of executive, enabling and administrative functions as needed.

315. Do you have any staff that are solely responsible for the portfolio of Hunter?

Answer:

I expect all my ministerial staff to contribute to the Hunter portfolio.

316. How many staff in your office are dedicated to this portfolio?

Answer:

Please see the answer to Question 315.

317. Do these staff have other portfolio responsibilities?

Answer:

My staff share multiple responsibilities.

Operational Questions

Agency Invoices

318. How many invoices to suppliers or contactors from your portfolio agency were not paid on time since 28 March 2023, broken down by agency?

I am advised:

Details are contained in the Departments / Agency's Annual Report under the heading account payment performance.

Details for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2022-23.

Details for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2023-24.

319. 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?

I am advised:

See answer to question 318.

320. 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?

I am advised:

See answer to question 318.

Car/Driver

321. 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?

I am advised:

The Department does not record these types of events.

322. Has your Ministerial Car been pulled over by the police?

- a) If so, who was driving the car?

I am advised:

The Department does not record these types of events.

Complaints

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

Answer:

Any complaint or disclosure made under the Respectful Workplace Policy is confidential. The Respectful Workplace Policy applies to all Ministerial Offices and staff and is published on the Cabinet Office's Website. As noted in the Goward review, a key aspect of effective workplace complaint policies is confidentiality in the complaint and investigation process. Confidentiality ensures that staff feel safe about raising concerns and confident that action will be taken in response.

Consultants

324. 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?

I am advised:

Legal costs are contained within the fees for services rendered category disclosed in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Department / Agency's Annual Report.

Details for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2022-23.

Details for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2023-24.

325. 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?

I am advised:

Photography, videography and ergonomics costs were incurred and are contained within the fees for services rendered category disclosed in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Department's Annual Report 2022-23, including for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023.

The period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Department's Annual Report 2023-24.

326. Since 28 March 2023, how many consultancy contracts have been signed in your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
- What was the individual amount of each contract?
 - What is the purpose of each contract?
 - Who was the contract with?
 - Did the contract go to a competitive tender?

I am advised:

Consultancy expenditure, including details of consulting engagements over \$50,000, are included in the annual reports of agencies and departments in accordance with the NSW Treasury Policy and Guidelines TPG23-10 - Annual Reporting Requirements.

Details for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2022-23.

Details for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2023-24.

Departmental Credit Cards

327. For each department, statutory agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio please report:
- How many credit cards are currently on issue for staff?
 - Please provide a break-down of this information by grade.
 - What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card for the last year?
 - What was each largest reported purchase for?
 - 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?
 - How many credit cards have been reported lost or stolen?
 - What was the cost to replace them?
 - How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to agency policy?
 - What was the total value of those purchases?
 - 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?
 - Were all those amounts repaid?
 - If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?
 - 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?
 - ii. Can a copy of the staff credit card policy please be provided?

I am advised:

The use and management of purchasing (credit) cards for official purposes is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements of the NSW Government.

Department/Agency Staffing

328. 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?

I am advised:

Numbers of senior executives are publicly reported within annual reports as per standard practice.

Details for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2022-23.

Details for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2023-24.

329. What is the expenditure on senior executive service employees employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?

I am advised:

Numbers and remuneration of senior executives are published in Annual Reports. Salaries and wages are included under employee related expenses in the Financial Statements of the Annual Report.

330. 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?

I am advised:

Staff numbers are included in agency annual reports.

331. What is the expenditure on internal legal counsel employees employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities 28 March 2023?

I am advised:

Salaries and wages are included in the Department's Annual Report.

332. 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?

I am advised:

Redundancies are published in the annual report under employee related expenses.

333. Is any former employee from your ministerial office now employed by any Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

I am advised:

Information relating to the employment of former Ministerial office staff is not retained.

334. 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?

I am advised:

The termination of an employee is treated confidentially and is managed in accordance with the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013* and relevant accompanying policies.

335. What was the total amount each of the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities spent on stationery since 28 March 2023?

I am advised:

Stationery costs are contained within the other expenses category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Department / Agency's Annual Report.

The costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2022-23.

Costs for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2023-24.

336. How many employees in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities are working in an 'acting' capacity?

I am advised:

Internal mobility is encouraged and acting arrangements are supported as part of the Department's Performance Development Framework.

337. What is the average number of days worked from home by employees in each Department/Agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

I am advised:

Flexible working arrangements are tailored on an individual basis and are discussed as part of ongoing conversations which are embedded in the Department's Performance Development Framework.

338. 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?

I am advised:

The items are contained within the travel costs category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Department / Agency's Annual Report. This is in accordance with the Treasury Direction TD23-11 Annual reporting requirements.

The travel costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2022-23.

Travel costs for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2023-24.

339. 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?

I am advised:

No senior executive in the NSW Police Force except the Commissioner of Police is provided a driver.

340. Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?

I am advised:

Charter air flights are contained within the travel costs category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Department / Agency's Annual

Report. This is in accordance with the Treasury Direction TD23-11 Annual reporting requirements.

The travel costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2022-23.

Travel costs for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2023-24.

341. 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?

I am advised:

Domestic travel is contained within the travel costs category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Department / Agency's Annual Report. This is in accordance with the Treasury Direction TD23-11 Annual reporting requirements.

The travel costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2022-23.

Travel costs for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2023-24.

342. 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?

I am advised:

The travel costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2022-23.

Travel costs for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2023-24.

Efficiency Dividends

343. 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?

I am advised:

The Budget papers include detailed information on budgeted expenses, revenue and capital expenditure. This includes detailed financial statements for individual agencies as well as for

government as a whole. The budget papers also outline the financial impact of measures in the budget on individual portfolios as well as for government as a whole.

GIPA Applications

344. 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.

I am advised:

GIPA statistics are reported annually by the Information and Privacy Commissioner, further information can be viewed via this link: <https://www.ipc.nsw.gov.au/information-access/gipa-dashboard>

345. 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?
 - i. If so, what were the reasons provided?
 - c) How many of these Applications were re-assigned?
 - d) How many of these Applications had fees waived/reduced?
 - e) 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.

I am advised:

Information concerning an agency's obligations under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (the Act)* is included in the relevant agency annual report in accordance with section 125(1) of the Act.

Further information about applications received by the Department is available on the disclosure log on its website.

Hospitality

346. How much has your ministerial office spent on hospitality, including catering and beverages, since 28 March 2023?

I am advised:

Catering provided for official purposes is funded from within the Ministerial office budget.

347. How much have Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spent on hospitality, including catering and beverages, since 28 March 2023?

I am advised:

Hospitality costs, including catering and beverages are contained within the other expenses category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Department / Agency's Annual Report.

The costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2022-23.

Costs for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2023-24.

348. Have you been the recipient of any free hospitality?
a) What was the total value of the hospitality received?

I am advised:

Ministers are required to declare to the Secretary of TCO certain gifts and hospitality with a market value of more than \$500 under Part 4 of the Schedule to the Ministerial Code. This is a continuous obligation for which Ministers are personally responsible. I comply with my obligation under Part 4 of the Schedule to the Ministerial Code.

349. 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?

I am advised:

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. A breach of the Policy may be a breach of the Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct.

The Policy included disclosure obligations for Ministerial staff in respect of gifts, hospitality and benefits over \$150. These disclosures are kept on the Office Holder's Register of Gifts and Benefits. If a Ministerial staff member is required by their role to accompany their Office Holder at an event that the Office Holder is attending as the State's representative, or where the Office Holder has asked the Staff member to attend, then attendance at that event would not constitute a gift or benefit for the purposes of the Policy.

Labour Hire Firms

350. 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.

I am advised:

Portfolio agencies make use of the vendor management system (VMS) Contractor Central in accordance with the mandatory whole-of-government Contingent Workforce Scheme. Information on Contractor Central and the Scheme, including registered suppliers, can be found on the NSW Procurement buy.nsw website.

Contractor costs are contained in either “agency contractors” within Employee Related Expenses for a standard labour hire contractor or “contractor – projects” category disclosed in the Other Operating Expenses for project related contractors. Both form part of the audited financial statements within the Department / Agency’s Annual Report.

Details for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2022-23.

Details for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2023-24.

Media and Public Relations

351. 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)

I am advised:

No money has been spent from my Ministerial office on advertising or sponsored posts on social media platforms.

352. 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)

I am advised:

Department and agency expenditure is published in Annual Reports and on OpenGov NSW.

353. 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?

Answer:

No.

354. 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?

I am advised:

Staff numbers are published in the Annual Reports.

Staff salaries are set by the Crown Employees (Public Sector- Salaries) Award.

355. 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?

I am advised:

See answer to question 354.

356. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

I am advised:

- Media monitoring services are procured under a whole-of-government contract.
- A whole-of-Government contract reduces administration costs on individual Departments and Agencies, takes advantage of economies of scale, and avoids duplication in services (and costs) across NSW Government.
- Isentia have recently secured the whole-of-government contract for the next three years, at a savings for more than \$2 million compared to the previous contract.

- Details of the three-year contract are available at <https://www.tenders.nsw.gov.au/?event=public.cn.view&CNUUID=E99BBB53-FC12-DC94-57E7E126B8321F73>

Merchant fees

357. 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.

I am advised:

Agencies/departments within my portfolio responsibilities operate in line with Treasury Circular *TC18-18 Agency recouping of merchant interchange fees*.

358. 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.

I am advised:

Merchant fees are embedded in individual credit card payments. The percentages will vary by supplier and the nature of the transaction.

359. 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?

I am advised:

Merchant fees are embedded in credit card payments and are not separately identified in the data captured by accounting systems. Where a merchant fee is incurred, the fee will be allocated to the expense category, for example a merchant fee on a domestic air fare will be treated as a Travel expense.

Ministerial disclosures

360. 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?

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, Ministers are required to:

- Notify the Premier of a change to their pecuniary and other interests as soon as practicable after the change has occurred
- Notify the Premier of a change to pecuniary and other interests held by their immediate family members, as soon as practicable after the change has occurred
- Notify the Premier promptly of conflicts of interest

- Disclose gifts and hospitality promptly to the TCO Secretary.

I make continuous disclosures of the matters that are covered by the Ministerial Code.

Office Administration

361. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS6 grade for the following months:

- April
- May
- June
- July
- August
- September
- October

I am advised:

Ministerial staff numbers and grades are published on the NSW Government website: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>

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

- April
- May
- June
- July
- August
- September
- October

Answer:

Please see the answer to Question 361.

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

- April
- May
- June
- July
- August
- September
- October

Answer:

Please see the answer to Question 361.

364. 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:

Please see the answer to Question 361.

365. 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:

Please see the answer to Question 361.

366. 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:

Please see the answer to Question 361.

367. What is the average salary for staff members in your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

Answer:

Please see the answer to Question 361.

368. 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:

- a) One
- b) One
- c) One
- d) Two
- e) Two
- f) Two
- g) Two

369. How many people are employed in your ministerial office as at 1 October 2023?

Answer:

Please see the answer to Question 361.

370. How many women are employed in your Ministerial office as at 1 October 2023?

Answer:

We aim for an inclusive and diverse workforce that reflects the communities that we serve.

371. How many staff employed in your ministerial office identify as culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) as at 1 October 2023?

Answer:

Please see the answer to Question 370.

372. How many staff employed in your ministerial office identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander as at 1 October 2023?

Answer:

Please see the answer to Question 370.

373. How many staff in your office are employed as media advisers or have responsibility for media/social media/communications?

I am advised:

Please see the answer to Question 361.

All staff are employed to assist the Minister in accordance with the Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013.

374. How many staff in your office are employed as policy advisers or have responsibility for policy work?

Answer:

Please see the answer to Question 373.

375. How many staff in your office are employed as 'caucus liaison officers'?

- What are the responsibilities allocated to 'caucus liaison officers'?
- Have 'caucus liaison officers' been directed to only work with Government MPs?
- Do 'caucus liaison officers' contact members of the Australian Labor Party as part of their regular work duties?

I am advised:

All staff are employed in accordance with the Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013 and staff are expected to comply with the NSW Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct.

376. 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?

- Please list each Department/agency staff members have been seconded from.

I am advised:

NSW Government sector employees may be seconded from agencies to Ministers' offices in accordance with clause 35 of the Government Sector Employment Regulation 2014 (GSE Regulation).

377. What is your ministerial office budget for 2023-24?

- How much of this budget is allocated to staff?

I am advised:

Minister's office budgets are drawn from the Premier's Department annual financial allocation to cover employee related expenses, accommodation, and other operating expenses. Further information relating to Minister' Office Budgets is available in the Ministers Office handbook.

378. How many iPhones/Smart Phones are assigned to staff in your ministerial office?

- For each phone, how much was each bill in 2022-23?
- How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
 - What is the cost of replacing those phones?

I am advised:

Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Communication Devices Policy provides guidance on the use, loss, theft and return of communication devices provided for business purposes. Minister's staff may use mobile telephones for business and (reasonable use) private purposes.

379. 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?

I am advised:

Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Communication Devices Policy provides guidance on the use, loss, theft and return of communication devices provided for business purposes. Minister's staff may use mobile telephones for business and (reasonable use) private purposes.

380. 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?

I am advised:

Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Communication Devices Policy provides guidance on the use, loss, theft and return of communication devices provided for business purposes. Minister's staff may use mobile telephones for business and (reasonable use) private purposes.

381. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?
- a) What is the cost of this?

I am advised:

Purchased or lease of artwork for official purposes is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements. The costs of purchasing or leasing artwork for official purposes are contained within the other expenses category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements with the Premier's Department Annual Report. The costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report 2022-23.

382. 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?

I am advised:

Hire or leased of floral displays or indoor plants is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements. The costs of hiring or leasing floral displays or indoor plants are contained within the other expenses category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements with the Premier's Department Annual Report. The costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report 2022-23.

383. What was the total amount your office spent on stationery since 28 March 2023?

I am advised:

Spending on office stationery is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements. The costs of stationery are contained within the other expenses category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements with the Premier's Department Annual Report. The costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report 2022-23.

384. What brand of paper is used in your office?

- a) Is it recycled paper?
- b) Is it Australian made paper?

I am advised:

The procurement of paper is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.

385. 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?

I am advised:

The total cost of all subscriptions is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements. The costs of stationery are contained within the other expenses category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements with the Premier's Department Annual Report. The costs for the period 28 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report 2022-23.

386. 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?

I am advised:

The Ministers' Office Handbook outlines that the decision to present a gift is at the discretion of the Minister, having regard to both appropriateness and economy. Gifts may be

appropriate, for example, where given as a memento of an official visit or as a small token of appreciation. However, gifts should not be given with the purpose, of inducing favourable treatment. In accordance with the Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office's Gifts and Hospitality Policy, a register of official gifts presented by the Minister will be reported by the Premier's Department at the end of each financial year as required under the Treasurers Direction TD21-04 & TD22-27.

387. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?
 a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

I am advised:

Any 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.

388. 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?

I am advised:

The Ministers' Office Handbook outlines that taxis or ride share services are an option for business trips, including trips:

- Home after evening duty (e.g, when Parliament is sitting, when required to perform the duties of the job, etc.) where public transport is not reasonably available or where it may be unsafe to use public transport.
- To or from the airport in connection with early morning or late -night flights on official trips.
- To meeting when it would be unsafe or uneconomical to use public transport.

Costs are managed within Ministerial office budgets.

389. 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?

I am advised:

All domestic and international travel bookings for official business must be made through the NSW Government's approved travel management supplier. This is currently FCM Travel Solutions.

Travel by the NSW Government contract includes:

- Commercial and charter air travel,
- Accommodation,

- Ground transport (car hire, rail, coach and ferry).

Financial commitments for travel expenditure from the Ministers' office budget need to be made within office arrangements approved by the Chief of Staff as an authorised financial delegate.

Where a Minister, or employee of the Minister's office undertakes travel, travel is taken in accordance with the NSW Government travel policy and Ministers' Office handbook. The Premier's Department website also details PD_A5842315, "Domestic and international travel of NSW Ministers and their offices" that has been released under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009.

Overseas Trips

390. 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?

I am advised:

In accordance with M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information, Ministers' overseas travel is published on the Premier's Department website.

391. 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?

I am advised:

In accordance with M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information, Ministers' overseas travel is published on the Premier's Department website.

Gifts and Hospitality, including contributions to travel are managed in accordance with the NSW Ministerial Code of Conduct.

Parliamentary Secretary

392. Does your Parliamentary Secretary have pass access to your ministerial office?

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.

393. Does your Parliamentary Secretary have a desk in your ministerial office?

Answer:

No.

394. 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.

395. 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.

I am advised:

A Parliamentary Secretary shall have and may perform such functions as the Minister may, from time to time, determine in respect of him or her, pursuant to section 38C of the Constitution Act 1902.

The general duties of a Parliamentary Secretary are outlined in the Ministers' Office Handbook available on the Premier's Department website.

396. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?

Answer:

I regularly meet with, and speak with, my Parliamentary Secretary.

397. 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?

I am advised:

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.

398. 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?

I am advised:

Please refer to answer 397.

399. 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?

I am advised:

Members of Parliament have a Skills Development Allowance that may be used in a manner consistent with the Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal.

Probity Auditor

400. 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.

I am advised:

Under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act)*, agencies are required to register government contracts valued at \$150,000 (including GST) or more on the NSW Government eTendering website.

Departments are required to include in their annual reports information in relation to consultants engaged by or on behalf of the agency, pursuant to Div. 7.3 of the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018* and the NSW Treasury Policy and Guidelines – Annual Reporting Requirements TPG23-10.

Qantas

401. 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:

Please refer to the answer provided to LC Question on Notice 117.

Training

402. Have you received any training since becoming a Minister?
- a) If yes, please provide the details of what the training was.

Answer:

No.

403. 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:

No.

Website Usage

404. What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and received) unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

I am advised:

All acceptable use of network services must be lawful, appropriate, and ethical. The Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Network Services Policy is available in the Ministers' Office Handbook.

405. What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

I am advised:

All acceptable use of network services must be lawful, appropriate, and ethical. The Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Network Services Policy is available in the Ministers' Office Handbook.

Police and Counter-Terrorism, the Hunter

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Police

406. In recognition of the substantive impact of domestic and family violence on victim-survivors, vulnerable children and their families in New South Wales, what current and new investment is the NSW Government making to ensure police officers are trained in how to effectively and appropriately respond to domestic and family violence crimes, including non-physical abuse?

I am advised:

In April 2023, the NSW Police Force received \$3,281,000 (excl. GST) to deliver Coercive Control training.

407. The training delivered for the implementation of coercive control criminalisation in Scotland, which is internationally considered to be best practice, has been described by Police Scotland as a change program, designed to change the attitudes and culture of police around domestic abuse and coercive control. Government funding was provided to a DFV specialist charity to design and deliver the program to police. What funding has the government committed to specialist DFV organisations to provide the capacity for them to co-design and co-deliver training for police?

I am advised:

See answer to question 406.

408. How is coercive control training being evaluated within NSW Police?

I am advised:

At this stage, due to the infancy of the current legislation and training, the NSW Police Force will continue to scope and develop the evaluation process relating to Coercive Control.

409. Deputy Commissioner Lanyon told the committee it was not correct that there was “insufficient or zero consultation with the domestic and family violence sector when it came to the development of that training, and that they haven't even seen that training”. Please outline, in detail, what consultation has occurred, with which stakeholders, and when this consultation occurred.

a) Please also outline which stakeholders, outside of NSW Police have seen the details of training content, rather than a high-level outline of the phased approach to training.

I am advised:

On 28 November 2022, the NSW Police Force held a meeting which was hosted by Assistant Commissioner Stuart Smith APM to discuss the development of the NSW Police

Force Coercive Control Training. The following agencies were invited: Legal Aid NSW (WDVCAP), DV NSW, Women's Legal Services NSW and Warringabiya.

The NSW Police Force also consulted an expert panel of DFV specialists in the development of the coercive control training package. These experts included: DVNSW, Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program DV practitioner (social worker), Legal Aid NSW, First Nations Senior Community Access Officer, Women's Legal Service NSW, First Nation Women Legal Program, Women's Safety Commissioner NSW (apology), CEO of DVNSW, Operations, NSW Ageing and Disability Commission, Deputy Chief Magistrate, Local Court of NSW, President of the Children's Court NSW, Chief Executive Officer, Multicultural NSW, Director, Community Health, ACON.

The purpose of the group was to act as a consultation forum regarding the NSW Police Force's proposed training approach for coercive control. This training focuses on:

- recording and responding to coercive control;
- collecting and recording evidence;
- prosecuting coercive control offences; and
- the complexity and nuance within different communities, with a focus on First Nations communities and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

The responses provided by the expert panel were recorded and included within the face-to-face training package, which is currently being delivered through to June 2024.

The NSW Police Force is meeting with the following Reference Groups to discuss police training and to hear from the expertise of these groups: DFV Service Delivery, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities, Lived Expertise, Older Persons and People with Disability, LGBTQIA+, First Nations Communities, and Children and Youth.

410. The misidentification of the predominant aggressor has been raised as a significant issue by the domestic and family violence sector, with Domestic Violence NSW hosting a forum in May 2023. What action is the NSW Government taking to address misidentification of the predominant aggressor by police?

I am advised:

Misidentification is referenced within the Phase 2 Face to Face Coercive Control training and the Domestic and Family Violence Fundamentals course.

411. What actions have and will be taken to address the recommendations from the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission's (LECC's) review of NSW Police Force responses to domestic and family violence, other than Recommendation One regarding police complaints, which was addressed in estimates?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force's response to the LECC recommendation can be found on the LECC's website.

412. What actions have and will be taken to address the recommendations from the Auditor General's report on police responses to domestic and family violence, other than Recommendations Five and Eight, which were addressed in estimates?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force formally responded to the eight (8) recommendations from the Auditor General's report in January 2023 and accepted all recommendations.

On 6 June 2022, the Commissioner's Executive Team endorsed the establishment of a DFVR steering committee to remedy and respond to the audit office recommendations for implementation across the organisation.

The DFV Reform Project has developed the following strategic objectives:

- Focus resourcing on the prevention, early intervention, response, and recovery of DFV
- Provide a capable & coordinated response to incidents of DFV
- Collaborate meaningfully with partners to assist victim recovery from DFV
- Establish service delivery standards and evaluative measures across workplace culture, training, community and inter-agency engagement, incident reporting, investigations, and prosecutions.

Facial Recognition

413. Does NSW Police use Clearview AI?

I am advised:

No

414. What facial recognition technology does NSW Police use?

I am advised:

The NSWPF utilises facial recognition for intelligence purposes, including SIS (Suspect Identification System), a commercial product from Cognitive Systems and an open source system called FaceNet which is internally branded as 'NYX'.

415. Does NSW Police use facial recognition technology for predictive policing?

I am advised:

No

416. Under what circumstances does NSW Police use facial recognition technologies?

I am advised:

The NSWPF utilises facial recognition as an intelligence tool to assist in the identification (including comparisons) of suspects/offenders, unknown victims, deceased and missing

persons. The Facial Recognition Unit only utilises footage/photos post event and does not utilise live feeds.

417. How many times has facial recognition technology been used to identify and convict a criminal, in:
- FY 23 to date
 - FY 22/23
 - FY 21/22
 - FY 20/21

I am advised:

There is no database that captures this information relating to convictions. The Facial Recognition Unit only records data on leads that have been generated to assist investigations.

- 453
- 316
- 312
- 382

418. Is there a principles, policy or guidance document used by NSW Police to guide the ethical use of facial recognition, biometric data, or other computer-mediated or assisted technology including but not limited to Artificial Intelligence for the use of police operations and investigations?
- Please provide all relevant policies, guidances and frameworks

I am advised:

- The NSW Police Force Emerging Biometric and AI Ethics Board
- The NSW Police Force Emerging Biometric and Artificial Intelligence Ethics Framework
- The NSW Police Force Facial Recognition Policy, Version 3.1, December 2012 (NSWPF)
- PhotoTrac suspect identification System, Training Guide for Facial Recognition, Version 1.5, February 2011 (NSWPF)
- There are separate unpublished SOPs regarding Facial Recognition workflows within Facial Recognition Unit and Real Time Intelligence Unit (NSWPF).
- Facial Identification Scientific Working Group (FISWG) guidelines and standards - Facial Comparison Overview & Methodology Guideline v2.0 (FISWG)
- Facial Images Comparison Feature List for Morphological Analysis v2.0 (FIWSG)
- Image Factors to Consider In Facial Image Comparison v1.0 (FIWSG)
- Physical Stability of Facial Features of Adults v2.0 (FIWSG)

419. What data is facial recognition software used by NSW Police built on?
- Who built it?
 - Have you assessed it for bias? If yes, what were the findings of this assessment, and did it inform any future changes or developments in the software or method of use?

I am advised:

- a) The facial recognition algorithm used within the facial recognition system is developed by Cognitec Systems.
- b) This software was commissioned in 2011 and has not been tested for bias. However, the NSW Police Force is currently engaged in a procurement process for its new Integrated Biometric Platform and through that process will ensure future biometric matching software is tested for bias.

420. How many people have police stopped, searched or arrested on the basis of facial recognition software?

I am advised:

This data is not held. The Facial Recognition Unit (FRU) provides information to assist an investigator on the basis that it is used to provide a lead and stipulates that it is only for intelligence purpose. Investigators are told that it should not be solely used for the purpose of an arrest.

All FRU job responses include the following caveat: -

'At this time, law enforcement Face ID systems are designed to be used as an investigative tool and not a specific identifier, such as fingerprint matching, DNA, etc. This information is for intelligence purposes only and should not solely be relied upon for positive identification of suspects.'

421. What forms of technology assisted analysis, including Artificial Intelligence or deep-learning technology, does NSW Police use?

I am advised:

The Facial Recognition Unit uses the FaceNet/NYX architecture, which is a deep learning platform, to train the algorithm based on the NSW Police Force database.

Indo-Pacific Naval Expo

422. What involvement has Strike Force Guard had in relation to protest activities at the Indo-Pacific Naval Expo?

I am advised:

Strike Force Guard is no longer an active investigation and had no involvement in the protest activities at the Indo-Pacific Naval Expo.

423. Is NSW Police investigating the violent assault by attendees of the expo against peaceful protestors?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force has not received any complaints of assaults in relation to this incident.

Police and Counter-Terrorism, the Hunter

Questions from Ms Sue Higginson MLC
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Police

424. Since 2022, there have been several incidents of NSW Police imposing a bail condition on individuals that requires them to "not undertake or attend any training, recruitment sessions or participate in the planning of unlawful protest activity". This condition has been imposed in relation to one person on November 7, 2023, to six individuals arrested on 19 June 2022 as part of the raid on a property near Colo where preparation for protest activity was alleged to have taken place and to two participants in a street march in Sydney CBD in June 2022. Reference numbers for several of these are provided below:

- H79295521 on 7 November 2023
 - case number 2022/00191258 on 30 June 2022
 - case number 2022/00188239 on 28 June 2022
 - H89502628 on 19 June 2022
- a) When individuals given this bail condition have asked police for a clarification of what 'unlawful protest activity' involves, none has been provided. What does this mean?
 - b) Given the fact that there is no specific offence of "unlawful protest activity" or capacity for individuals to know if a protest they participate in will give rise to unlawful activity (for example, if a move on order is issued and a protestor does not comply with it), what is the legal basis for this bail condition and how can individuals know if they are in compliance with it, short of not participating in any protest activity at all?
 - c) If the only way for an individual to adhere to the bail condition is to not participate in any protest activity:
 - i. how is this a reasonable bail condition?
 - ii. how does this accord with the right of public assembly recognised by courts in NSW and the implied freedom of political communication in the Constitution?
 - iii. will the Minister ensure this bail condition is not imposed by police anymore?

I am advised:

- a) Unlawful activity committed ostensibly in connection with protest activity. For example, a person who is participating in an authorised static protest on a footpath would commit an unlawful act by blocking vehicular traffic if they moved onto the roadway.
- b) A person with this bail condition would not commit an offence by participating in an authorised protest, it is only if they commit an unlawful act while ostensibly protesting. It is irrelevant whether a person is participating in a protest or not, if they are issued a lawful "move on" direction and they do not follow it, they are committing an unlawful act.
- c) Per above, the individual is not precluded from participating in lawful protest activity.

425. Since 2022, there have been several instances of NSW Police imposing a bail condition on individuals who have participated in protest that requires them to "not contact or be in the presence of" any member of specific activist groups, such as anti-militarist activist group Wage Peace. These activist groups do not have a formalised membership structure. How is an individual expected to comply with this bail condition given there is no defined membership of, for example, Wage Peace?
- How is this a reasonable bail condition?
 - How does this bail condition accord with the implied freedom of political communication and its corollary freedom of association in the Constitution?

I am advised:

Where police are aware of the identity of people who are associated with a particular group who have demonstrated a willingness to engage in unlawful activity, ostensibly in connection with protest activity, police may seek a non-association condition with named persons to mitigate the risk to the community of further unlawful actions.

- Police may seek a non-association condition with named persons to mitigate the risk to the community of further unlawful actions.
- The individual is not precluded from participating in lawful protest activity.

426. Since 2022, several activist groups have been identified by NSW Police in bail documents and in court as 'Issue Motivated Groups'.
- What is the NSW Police definition of an 'Issue Motivated Group'?
 - What are the factors that NSW Police use when classifying a group as an 'Issue Motivated Group'?
 - What resources, financial and operational, have NSW Police committed to investigation, surveillance and apprehension of 'Issue Motivated Groups'?
 - Can NSW Police provide a list of groups currently identified as 'Issue Motivated Groups'?
 - How can individuals find out if a group they are part of is classified as an 'Issue Motivated Group'?

I am advised:

- The NSW Police Force does not have a working definition of a 'Issue Motivated Group'. The term is used to refer to coalitions or groups of individuals whose actions are inspired by a common interest, goal or ideology.
- The NSW Police Force considers the factors outlined in (a) above when referring to a group as an 'Issue Motivated Group'. Consequently, the list of Issue Motivated Groups is broad, covering the full breadth of the socio-political spectrum. An Issue Motivated Group is only of interest to the NSW Police Force if it is considered that its actions have the potential to require a police response. Such a response may be elicited by criminal conduct or disrupting public order.
- The Public Order and Events Intelligence Unit is responsible for the centralised collection, analysis and dissemination of intelligence relating to Issue Motivated Groups. The Unit helps ensure public safety by identifying and informing field and specialist commands of events occurring nationally, internationally and within the state that could affect their response. The Unit has a staff of eight (8) police officers.

d-e) This information is not for public release.

Opera House protest

427. Have you at any point before now received any information from anyone in the NSW Police Force to suggest that the words “gas the Jews” were not said by protestors at the Opera House on 9 October 2023?
- a) If yes to 1., what are the details of the information you received?
 - b) If yes to 1., on what date and at what time did you first receive the information?
 - c) If yes to 1., how did you receive first that information?
 - d) If yes to 1., why have you taken no steps to alert the public about that?
 - e) Have you received information from anyone in the NSW Police Force as above on any subsequent occasion?
 - i. If yes to 1(d)., on what date and at what time did you subsequently receive the information?
 - ii. If yes to 1(d)., how did you subsequently receive that information?

I am advised:

The matter continues to be investigated by Strike Force Mealing investigators with further analysis being undertaken on a recording in possession of investigators.

428. Have you at any point before now received any information from anyone in the NSW Police Force to suggest that the words “gas the Jews” might not have been said by protestors at the Opera House on 9 October 2023?
- a) If yes to 2., what are the details of the information you received?
 - b) If yes to 2., on what date and at what time did you first receive the information?
 - c) If yes to 2., how did you first receive that information?
 - d) If yes to 2., why did you take no steps to alert the public about that?
 - e) Have you received information from anyone in the NSW Police Force as above on any subsequent occasion?
 - i. If yes to 2(d)., on what date and at what time did you subsequently receive the information?
 - ii. If yes 2(d)., how did you subsequently receive that information?

Answer:

See answer to question 427.

429. Have you at any point before now received any information from anyone in the NSW Police Force to the effect that the investigation into the protest at the Sydney Opera House on 9 October 2023 has revealed no evidence that “gas the Jews” was said?
- a) If yes to 3., what are the details of the information you received?
 - b) If yes to 3., on what date and at what time did you first receive the information?
 - c) If yes to 3., how did you first receive that information?
 - d) Have you received information from anyone in the NSW Police Force as above on any subsequent occasion?
 - i. If yes to 3(c)., on what date and at what time did you subsequently receive the information?
 - e) If yes to 3(c)., how did you subsequently receive that information?

Answer:

See answer to question 427.

430. Have you at any point before now received any information from anyone in the NSW Police Force to the effect that the police have reviewed all available video footage of the protest at the Sydney Opera House on 9 October 2023 as part of their investigation into the commission of any offences?
- a) If yes to 4., have you received any information from anyone in the NSW Police Force to the effect that the police hold no evidence that “gas the Jews” was said?
 - b) If yes to 4., have you received any information from anyone in the NSW Police Force to the effect that, or which implies that, that the video circulated by the Australian Jewish Association depicting protestors chanting “gas the Jews” is not authentic?

Answer:

See answer to question 427.

431. Based on the information you have received from the NSW Police Force about their investigation, are you willing to confirm that “gas the Jews” actually was said by protestors at the Opera House on 9 October 2023?

Answer:

See answer to question 427.

432. Are you not willing to confirm that “gas the Jews” was actually said because you have received information from the NSW Police Force that they have no evidence “gas the Jews” was said?

Answer:

See answer to question 427.

433. Are you not willing to confirm that “gas the Jews” was actually said because you have received information from the NSW Police Force that puts that proposition in doubt?

Answer:

See answer to question 427.

434. Do you agree that there is no other allegation of hate speech from the protest at the Sydney Opera House on 9 October 2023 other than the chanting of “gas the Jews”?

Answer:

See answer to question 427.

435. Do you agree that in the context of Israel as a Jewish State, that saying “eff the Jews” or “fuck the Jews” is almost certainly protected political speech?

Answer:

See answer to question 427.

436. Have you ever cast doubt publicly on the proposition that “gas the Jews” was said on 9 October 2023 at the Sydney Opera House?

Answer:

See answer to question 427.

437. Has any representative of the NSW Police Force ever cast doubt publicly on the proposition that “gas the Jews” was said on 9 October 2023 at the Opera House?

Answer:

See answer to question 427.

438. Shortly after the event on 9 October 2023, the Australian Jewish Association circulated a video of the protest at the Sydney Opera House which depicts protestors chanting “gas the Jews”, do you accept that?

- a) Have you seen this video?
- b) The video and reference to the chant “gas the Jews” has been reported in the news by a number of Australian media outlets and in international media outlets, do you accept that?
- c) In Parliament, it has been said on a number of occasions by various members that “gas the Jews” was chanted at the Opera House on 9 October 2023, do you accept that?

Answer:

- a) No.
- b) That is a matter of public record
- c) That is a matter for Hansard

439. You described in your evidence on 7 November that “antisemitic [chants] and any sort of hate speech that we did see on the news” was “awful” and “absolutely shocking” and that “[w]e don’t expect to see that on our streets here in Sydney or, indeed, in New South Wales.” You also described the language “gas the Jews” as “abhorrent” and you condemned the use of those words. Do you agree that the widespread reporting of protestors chanting “gas the Jews” has significantly demonised Palestinians and supporters of Palestinians?

- a) Are you concerned about the impact of this demonisation on multicultural harmony?
- b) Are you concerned about the rise of Islamophobia in the NSW community as a consequence of these events?

I am advised:

The language that was reported by media outlets to have been used at the 9th October protest was abhorrent and is the reason why inquiries have continued in an attempt to determine what was said and by whom. Investigations into the incident remain ongoing. There is little doubt that the ongoing conflict in the Middle East is impacting upon multi-cultural harmony in NSW, particularly Sydney.

The NSW Police Force maintains the view that all persons have a right to free speech and there are a range of views in relation to the current conflict.

However, that does not excuse any person from any cultural or religious background making comments which breach the law. When instances of this can be substantiated, action will be taken. Police have arrested a number of persons for offensive behaviour and language since 9 October.

The NSW Police Force maintains a position of supporting all community and takes actions where appropriate. It continues to work and support all communities and it regularly meets with leadership across the spectrum of groups to ensure all understand they are supported but that breaches of the law will be actioned. The community itself and the leadership within communities also has a responsibility to provide appropriate leadership and guide community to ensure they are heard but that they abide by the law.

440. Do you agree that the widespread reporting of protestors chanting “gas the Jews” influenced the political discourse and developments in the weeks after this allegation?

Answer:

Please refer to answer 439.

441. Do you agree that the proposition that protestors chanted “gas the Jews” was used to suggest that pro-Palestinian protests should be banned in NSW?

Answer:

Please refer to answer 439.

442. Do you agree that the widespread reporting of the chanting of “gas the Jews” at the Sydney Opera House at a protest on 9 October 2023 has contributed to great fear and distress in the Jewish community in Australia?

a) Are you concerned about the impact of this fear and distress on multicultural harmony?

Answer:

Please refer to answer 439.

443. I suggest to you that the demonisation of Palestinians and Palestinian supporters, disruption to multicultural harmony, and a threat of violence to the Jewish population have been perpetuated by a failure to inform the public about the results of the police

investigation that in fact this chant “gas the Jews” may not have been used. Do you agree?

Answer:

Please refer to answer 439.

444. I suggest to you that the demonisation of Palestinians and Palestinian supporters, disruption to multicultural harmony, and a threat of violence to the Jewish population have been perpetuated by a failure to inform the public about the results of the police investigation that there is no evidence that this chant “gas the Jews” was used. Do you agree?

Answer:

Please refer to answer 439.

445. Do you agree that you have a duty to the people of NSW to ensure that the public record in relation to such serious matters as whether “gas the Jews” was chanted at a protest in Sydney was said is correct?

- a) Do you agree that you have a duty to correct the public record in relation to these types of matters as soon as you know information contrary to what has already been made public?
- b) Do you agree that a failure to do so, is a gross abandonment of your duty to the people of NSW?

Answer:

Please refer to answer 439.

446. Since the budget estimates hearing, has there been any feedback from members of the NSW Police that the evidence given in regard to the video that contains chanting at the pro Palestine opera house protest on October 9th, 2023 and the specific words “gas the Jews” was not correct?

- a) Is there any indication that the audio that has been widely broadcast in a video of the pro-Palestine protest at the Opera House on October 9th was doctored?
- b) Have the NSW Police made an assessment and or determination that the widely broadcast video, of the pro-Palestine protest at the Opera House on October 9th, was doctored to have the words “gas the Jews” dubbed as if they were really being chanted?
- c) What mechanisms do the NSW Police have in place to verify digital material and combat misinformation?
- d) Have the police received any statements from any person who witnessed or heard the words “gas the Jews” chanted at the Opera House or in the vicinity on 9 October 2023?

Answer:

See answer to question 427.

Suspect Target Management Plan

447. Given the disproportionate impact on young First Nations children, what specific measures has the government taken to ensure that such discriminatory practices are not repeated in any future policies or programs?

I am advised:

The STMP for Youth has been discontinued.

448. What steps has the government taken to engage with affected communities, particularly the young people who have suffered under the Suspect Target Management Plan, to understand their experiences and provide necessary support?

Answer:

I have met with relevant stakeholder groups to discuss this matter.

449. In the absence of a redress scheme, what alternative avenues of support or justice are being made available to the affected young people?

I am advised:

The outcomes for young people who were previously placed on the STMP vary greatly. For those young people who believe they have been adversely impacted, there are established mechanisms for complaints and redress, which can be accessed by young people directly, through support groups, government agencies and legal process.

450. Are there any existing mechanisms or resources that they can access for addressing the harm they have experienced?

Answer:

See answer to question 449.

451. What plans are in place, or being developed, to prevent similar instances of systemic discrimination and maladministration from occurring in the future?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force has discontinued the STMP for youth.

452. Has the government conducted a comprehensive assessment of the impacts of the Suspect Target Management Plan on young people, particularly those from marginalized communities? If so, what were the findings, and how are these findings being used to inform policy and decision-making processes?

I am advised:

No

453. What are the specific steps being taken to ensure that the affected young people have access to legal representation and support if they choose to pursue civil litigation against the State for the damages they have suffered?

Answer:

Young people have established mechanisms to make complaints, seek support and obtain legal advice in respect to any litigation they may consider.

454. What is the government doing to improve the independent oversight mechanisms to monitor law enforcement practices and ensure that the rights of young people are protected in all interactions with the police and programs such as the STMP are not able to continue under maladministration for decades?

Answer:

The NSW Police Force is committed to upholding the highest standards of officer integrity and conduct. In addition to its Professional Standards Command, the NSW Police Force is oversighted by the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, NSW Coroner, NSW Ombudsman and the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

455. Given the lack of a redress scheme, how does the government plan to rebuild trust and confidence among affected communities, particularly the young people who have been subject to unfair treatment and discrimination under the Suspect Target Management Plan?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force maintains very good local relationships with the community, community groups, and young people more generally. The NSW Police Force has a clear strategic direction when dealing with youth crime and has built strong relationships with partners who together with local communities are making a positive difference to the lives of many young people across the state. The Youth Command's Youth Strategy 2023-2025 outlines the NSW Police Force intended approach to policing issues that relate to or impact young people between the ages of 10 – 17 years.

456. What resources and support services are being provided to assist young people in coping with the psychological and emotional impact of their experiences with the Suspect Target Management Plan? What mental health and counselling services are being made available to them?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force is committed to providing support, within the resources and means available, to young person offenders who have been exposed to the criminal justice system or those whom are at risk of being further exposed to the criminal justice system.

The intention of this support is to prevent those young persons from offending and to reduce the harm caused to NSW communities by the offending.

The NSWPF is also committed working in collaboration with the whole of the NSW government in the pursuit of support for young persons who are at risk of offending and re-offending.

457. How many young people were subject to STMPs while they were in out of home care?
- How many of these children identify as Aboriginal?
 - How many were non-Aboriginal young people of colour?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force does not collect this data.

Closing the Gap

458. What specific initiatives has the New South Wales Government implemented to ensure that the police force is actively contributing to the Closing the Gap targets for Aboriginal communities?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force is committed to keeping the communities safe and working to reduce crime and violence, particularly for families and young people, and focus on early diversion of young Aboriginal people away from the criminal justice system and toward support services.

The NSW Police Force's Aboriginal Strategic Direction (ASD) is the framework that enables police to work in partnership with local Aboriginal communities and identifies critical opportunities for police to strengthen and maintain partnerships with Aboriginal communities and key agencies.

The ASD also enables partnerships in developing joint strategies with Police Aboriginal Consultative Committee (PACC) community action plans that tailors a local perspective and impact on policing in order to actively contribute to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap targets.

The NSW Police Force also undertakes bespoke engagements and crime prevention initiatives across NSW, in consultation with First Nations people and their communities. Further general programs aimed at Juvenile Aboriginal crime prevention and diversion are driven by the NSW Police Force's Youth Command and PCYCs across the State.

459. How does the government plan to address the concerns raised by Commissioner Webb regarding the potential conflict between the police force's responsibilities in addressing Closing the Gap targets and its traditional law enforcement duties?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force is a law enforcement body that is required to act in accordance with NSW legislation. The NSW Police Force's ASD was renewed in August 2023 and aligns with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap to focus on how to work with Aboriginal communities by adopting a policing response that meets the needs of the local community and contributes to improving the lives of Aboriginal people.

When it comes to proactive partnership policing, the structure of the ASD includes a Police Aboriginal Consultative Committee (PACC), which facilitates open, two-way communication between the NSW Police Force and local Aboriginal communities and stakeholders in order to provide culturally responsive policing in an ASD reporting Command.

Advocates, at a Superintendent rank, meet regularly via the ASD Steering Committee and work collaboratively with the Corporate Owner for Aboriginal Engagement on local trends and policing strategies.

The NSW Police Force facilitates communication and collaboration on crime prevention with Aboriginal community stakeholders and government organisations through the Police Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Council (PASAC).

PASAC monitors the impact of policing practices and strategies that involve Aboriginal people and their communities and initiates appropriate remedial action where required. The aim of PASAC is to connect activities to the NSW Police Force's Strategic Intent, the NSW Premier's Priorities, the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, and generate better outcomes for First Nations people and their communities.

460. What steps has the Minister taken to engage with Commissioner Webb and other relevant stakeholders to resolve any perceived conflicts in the approach to addressing the complex social issues faced by Aboriginal communities?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force leads the Police Aboriginal Consultative Committees (PACC) that encompass the local police and Aboriginal community coming together to address matters associated with crime, crime prevention and community safety.

At each PACC, an Aboriginal Action Plan is developed as a commitment between police and the local Aboriginal community for each side to have a voice in what happens in their local community. This allows police to engage external agencies to work with the community to address issues as required.

The NSW Police Force's Aboriginal Strategy and Coordination Team, in conjunction with local Police Districts, Local Area Commands and specialised units, including State Intelligence Command, provide advice to the corporate owner of Aboriginal Engagement on an Assistant Commissioner level, on localised and trending criminal insights that Aboriginal communities are experiencing and the reasoning behind the causes of such issues or links to cultural sensitivities.

Information can also be communicated from the PACC that consist of local Aboriginal community members and organisations as detailed above. The Commissioner of Police is informed of such information regularly in order to coordinate and collaborate with the Minister for Police at the Police Ministers' Council meetings that have committed to achieving real outcomes under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

461. What specialised training programs for police officers to enhance their understanding of the historical and social factors contributing to the over-representation of First Nations people in the criminal justice system? If so, what specific measures are being taken in this regard?

a) Please describe in detail strategies in regional Local Area Commands

b) Please describe in detail strategies in metropolitan Local

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force offers a number of cultural awareness training packages statewide that are specifically aligned to building capability and knowledge of staff working with Aboriginal communities.

There are currently four different levels of training packages on offer including:

- 'Working with Aboriginal Communities Level 1 Workshop'

Initially, student police undertake this introductory workshop during week 15 of their training program prior to attestation and deployment to their relevant Commands. This workshop is compulsory to all student police at the NSW Police Academy and includes an overview of historical factors that affect and impact on current relationships between the NSW Police Force and First Nations people. Further topics covered on Aboriginal culture include kinship practices, sorry business, intergenerational trauma, unconscious bias, effective communication, 'Aboriginal English', and respectful behaviour and language when engaging with Aboriginal people.

- 'Engaging with Aboriginal People'

This workshop is facilitated as an online session as a segway into the 'Working with Aboriginal Communities Level 2 Workshop' and designed to further build capabilities of staff when engaging with First Nations people and communities. This training gives an overview of topics covered in the level 2 workshop, including gratuitous concurrence, health considerations of Aboriginal people, the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer (ACLO) role and operational considerations of the ACLO.

- 'Local Aboriginal Awareness'

When staff commence their employment or tenure at an ASD reporting Command, they undertake a local Aboriginal awareness training session facilitated by the local Education Development Officer and Aboriginal Engagement Officer in conjunction with the ACLO where available. Topics that can be covered in this local package focus on local cultural protocols and historical matters that have impacted on previous police practices. Cultural immersion training facilitated by local community Aboriginal organisations are conducted to further build cultural competency and understanding.

- 'Working with Aboriginal Communities Level 2 Workshop'

This workshop covers in depth topics, such as Aboriginal English including gratuitous concurrence, bias and unconscious bias, Aboriginal identity and culture, intergenerational trauma including the stolen generations, trauma informed communication that includes better communication with Aboriginal communities, Aboriginal Custody and Victim Support groups and operational considerations of our ACLOs.

462. How does the government plan to ensure that the police force's efforts are aligned with a holistic, whole-of-government approach to addressing the root causes of social issues affecting Aboriginal communities?

I am advised:

The renewed NSW Police Force's ASD is more aligned with a holistic and whole of government approach in addressing issues experienced by the First Nations communities.

The key priorities of the ASD include:

- Priority 1: Community Safety Communication & Understanding
- Priority 2: Partnerships – Collaborate & Influence
- Priority 3: Safety and Wellbeing of Aboriginal Young People
- Priority 4: Family Safety and Domestic Violence

The NSW Police Force works in collaboration with many community groups and organisations (government and non-government) in order to reduce crime and violence, maintain safer communities, and focus on the early diversion of Aboriginal young people away from the criminal justice system and towards appropriate support services that are committed to improving the lives of First Nations people and their communities.

Under the Aboriginal Strategic Direction (ASD) structure, Police have relationships with all levels of stakeholders from local community members at Police Aboriginal Consultative Committee (PACC) level through to the Police Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Council (PASAC).

These cohesive relationships drive solutions at a local, regional and state-wide level whilst being committed and accountable in achieving outcomes to Aboriginal people and communities.

463. Has the government conducted any comprehensive assessments or reviews to understand the systemic challenges faced by the police force in effectively contributing to the Closing the Gap targets? What were the findings of these assessments, and what actionable steps are being taken to address the identified issues?

I am advised:

The Law Enforcement Conduct Commission (LECC) conducted a comprehensive review of the superseded 'Aboriginal Strategic Direction 2018 – 2023' in October 2023 and provided eleven recommendations to improve our service when it comes to Aboriginal engagement and service delivery. The report is publicly available on the LECC's website.

Since this review has been conducted, the new iteration of the Aboriginal Strategic Direction (ASD) has been released that has been significantly updated to more align with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

It is important to note that the 'Aboriginal Strategic Direction 2018 – 2023' was created and implemented prior to the Nation Agreement on Closing the Gap, therefore comparisons of the intent of both documents were impossible.

464. What strategies has the government developed to promote effective collaboration and coordination between the police force and other relevant government agencies to address the complex social issues faced by Aboriginal communities?

Answer:

Pleas refer to answers for question 458 and 462.

465. How does the government plan to improve transparency and communication between the Minister's office, the Commissioner, and the broader public regarding the roles and responsibilities of the police force in contributing to the Closing the Gap targets?

I am advised:

The structure of the Aboriginal Strategic Direction (ASD) collaboration bodies and stakeholders provide governance, strategic oversight of programs and policy, transparency and accountability at all levels of the organisation.

466. How does the government plan to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies and initiatives being implemented by the police force to contribute to the Closing the Gap targets? What metrics or indicators will be used to assess the progress and impact of these efforts over time?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force has implemented a single-source recording platform for Aboriginal community engagement and Aboriginal Strategic Direction (ASD) Crime Prevention Grants applications and reporting obligations.

This platform records community meetings, consultation sessions, community events, community engagements or programs with external stakeholders and members of the community.

The platform also records when Police Aboriginal Consultative Committee (PACC) meetings have been held, and details of community action plans and community profiles. The platform allows for a single-source application process for ASD Crime Prevention Grants from application through to acquittal.

The platform ensures that relevant activities are aligned to the Corporate Sponsorship of Aboriginal Engagement, providing the NSW Police Force an unprecedented capability to showcase local crime prevention efforts and achievements across the state.

Police investigating police

467. How many police are presently on long term sick leave?
- a) Can you provide disaggregated data on the categories of reason for long term sick leave and the number of people in each category?
 - i. Include the number of officers on sick leave due to bullying or related reasons.
 - b) How many investigations into police misconduct are presently open?
 - i. How many were there that commenced in 2022-23?
 - ii. How many investigations, commenced in any year, were finalized in 2022-23?
 - c) How many complaints of bullying have been made by police in 2022-23?
 - i. How many complaints of bullying

I am advised:

Police is interpreted to mean Police Officer:

- a) As at 30 September 2023 1,427 police officers were on long-term sick. Disaggregated data is not available.
- b) 748 incidents are recorded as open on the Misconduct Matters Information System as at 30 September 2023.
 - (i) 5,686 incidents are recorded as being commenced in the 2023 FY on the Misconduct Matters Information System
 - (ii) 5,583 incidents are recorded as being finalised in the 2023 FY on the Misconduct Matters Information System
- c) 134 complaints of bullying are recorded as being made by police officers during the 2023FY on the Misconduct Matters Information System.
 - (i) Question is incomplete.

468. What steps has the government taken to ensure that there are adequate review mechanisms in place to identify and address any systemic issues within the process of investigating police conduct, particularly in cases where there might be concerns about potential conflicts of interest or biases? Has the government considered conducting a comprehensive review or audit of the internal investigation processes within the police force to assess their effectiveness and identify any systemic problems? If so, what are the specific actions being taken to address the findings of such a review?

I am advised:

As the oversight body for the NSW Police Force, the LECC can, at any time, decide to oversight a misconduct matter/complaint, can investigate it themselves, or direct the NSW Police Force to investigate it.

The LECC oversight all declared critical incident investigations (which are investigated by a command not involved in that specific police operation) and, where the critical incident involves a death, the matter is subject to a coronial inquest also.

Regarding potential conflicts of interest involving investigations, there are a number of steps in place internally within the NSW Police Force.:

- 1) A specific process for domestic and family violence incidents involving a member of the NSW Police Force, which includes the requirement for the Inspector on Duty when the NSW Police Force is notified of the incident to speak with the POI and PINOP with regard to any concerns about conflicts of interest.
- 2) As part of an investigation into alleged misconduct, both the proposed investigator and the Command Management Team (who appoint the investigator and consider their report and recommendations) are required to complete a declaration with regards to conflicts of interest prior to any investigation commencing.

469. How does the government plan to enhance transparency and accountability within the system of investigating police conduct to ensure that the process is fair and unbiased, maintaining public trust and confidence in the integrity of the police force?

Answer:

See answer to question 468.

470. What resources and support services are being provided to assist police officers who might be under investigation or facing challenges within the internal investigation process? How does the government plan to prioritize the mental health and well-being of officers during and after such investigations?

I am advised:

All NSW Police Force Officers who are subject to an internal investigation are able to access the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), the NSW Police Force chaplains, and/or a Peer Support Officer, should they choose to do so.

Any officer subject to an internal investigation is reminded of these services. If a member of the NSW Police Force is interviewed during an investigation, they are entitled to have a support person attend the interview with them.

If a member of the NSW Police Force is the complainant, there are also services that are available to them, including but not limited to, the Internal Witness Support Unit, the EAP, NSW Police Force Chaplains, and Peer Support Officers. Access to services under the PULSE program are also available to all members of the NSW Police Force, including but not limited to, those involved in an internal investigation.

471. What strategies has the government developed to address the high rate of sick leave and mental health-related issues among police officers? How does the government plan to improve the overall well-being and retention of officers within the New South Wales Police Force?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force is focussed on the provision of mental health support to its employees and is providing a suite of psychological, health, fitness, safety and injury management initiatives for staff at each stage of their employment including, but not limited to, access to mental health clinicians and funding assistance to access private psychological treatment.

Additionally, the NSW Police Force continues to work with internal and external stakeholders to enhance employee engagement and retention. Some of these initiatives include:

- Recently launched Employee Value Proposition (EVP) to reconnect to the emotional reason for joining and remaining in the NSW Police Force
- Talent Strategy Activities including designing a career pathway, high potential model
- Creation of a newly dedicated team of Career Advisors to provide individual careers coaching for all employees and greater provision of the Vocational Skills Workshop
- People Strategy and related activities
- Initiation of a project with Technology Command to enhance employee engagement through improved online survey functionality
- Welcome to Region packs for officers moving to remote locations
- Capability Development and Rotation program – this provides employees with the opportunity to try different roles and duties within NSW Police Force that are outside their normal role, to refresh, develop and explore alternate career pathways.

472. Has the government considered implementing additional training programs or support initiatives to ensure that all officers involved in internal investigations have a thorough understanding of their responsibilities and the importance of maintaining impartiality and fairness throughout the process?

I am advised:

All NSW Police Force officers appointed as an investigator in a misconduct matter investigation are chosen by the Complaints Management Team (CMT) based on having the requisite skills, knowledge, experience and rank to conduct the investigation in a professional manner. Any officer appointed as an investigator in a misconduct matter has been determined by the CMT to have a thorough understanding of their responsibilities and the importance of maintaining impartiality and fairness.

All reports by investigators in a misconduct matter are reviewed by the relevant CMT, which is chaired by the relevant Commander. Supporting guidance is provided to all investigators, reminding them of their requirements around impartiality, confidentiality, protecting the confidentiality of the complainant, and the need to provide regular communication and updates to the CMT. All reports are quality reviewed and considered by the relevant CMT.

473. What specific steps has the government taken to address the concerns raised about the increasing number of claims against police officers and the potential financial implications for the police force? How does the government plan to manage and mitigate such challenges moving forward?

I am advised:

As the oversight body for the NSW Police Force, the LECC can, at any time, decide to oversee a misconduct matter/complaint, can investigate it themselves, or direct the NSW Police Force to investigate it.

We will continue to ensure the NSW Police Force is resourced to conduct relevant training and education programs, and to support their Respectful Workplace Behaviour Misconduct Management Model, and that LECC is resourced to oversee any allegations of misconduct that may result in claims against the NSW Police Force.

474. How does the government plan to foster a culture of open communication and constructive feedback within the police force to encourage officers to voice their concerns or identify any potential issues within the internal investigation processes?

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force implemented a Respectful Workplace Behaviour Misconduct Management Model (RWB Model) in November 2020. As noted in the LECC's 2023 annual report (page 80), the LECC reviewed this model after its first two years of operation, finding improvements with regard to timely completion of investigations, improved record keeping practices, and improved rate of transfer of investigations to different local commands.

As is referenced by the LECC, the NSW Police Force encourages all employees to speak up and take action when they experience or witness workplace behaviour that is inappropriate.

The LECC will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the RWB Model. Prior to any action being taken against an officer, they are invited to make submissions with regard to potential outcomes.

Sponsorship

475. Do NSW Police receive any kind of sponsorship - financial or in kind?
 a) If yes, please provide the name of the company and the dollar amount and/or which product, how many and total monetary value.

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force receives sponsorship in terms of goods, services and funding, the process of which is managed through its Sponsorship, Donation and Fundraising policy.

This policy provides governance on the management of sponsorships. Sponsorship, either directly or indirectly, cannot be accepted from companies or organisations which the NSW Police Force regulates or inspects, or those which may conflict with broader whole of government initiatives.

There are no centralised records capturing sponsorship information. Local business units record and track local agreements.

Adam Greenwood

476. Adam Greenwood has made serious allegations of misconduct and corruption against Inspector John Klepzcerek, which he reported to the LECC and he says the allegation was referred back to Inspector John Klepzcerek for investigation.
 a) Can you confirm whether this occurred and whether there has been an independent investigation into Mr Greenwood's allegations?

I am advised:

The investigation and handling of misconduct allegations is confidential information. Details relating to the outcome of these matters are communicated directly to the person making these allegations.

On receipt of the allegations, the LECC responded advising that it was not a matter justifying any investigation by the Commission and referred all matters for consideration by the NSW Police Force.

477. Mr Greenwood has made serious allegations of police corruption against NSW Police in the Bowral area, including allegations of police involvement in organised crime. Has there been an independent investigation into any officers in Bowral area since Mr Greenwood made complaints against them in 2016?
 a) If yes, what were the findings?
 b) If no, why not?
 c) Will you commit to an independent review of the complaints?

I am advised:

See answer to question 476.

Section 105 of the *Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Act 2016* provides for the LECC to request a review of any decision or action taken in relation to any decision in a misconduct matter. The LECC has not requested such a review by the NSW Police Force.

478. In December 2022 Mr Greenwood was charged with 27 offences, all of them he says are related to complaints he's made against police over a four year period. 17 of these charges have now been dropped. Have Mr Greenwood's charges been independently reviewed and considered in the context of complaints he has made against the NSW Police and whether these could be retributive action, as was the case with Daniel Keneally?

I am advised:

These two separate matters are currently before the courts, as such it would be inappropriate for the NSW Police Force to provide further commentaries at this time.

Revenue from fines

479. What was the total revenue in the past financial year from fines issued for:

- a) Jaywalking?
- b) Cyclists on footpaths?
- c) Food delivering riders not wearing high-visibility personal protective equipment?

Answer:

This question should be referred to Revenue NSW for response.

SUPPLEMENTARY QON 9

Where an illicit substance was found as a result of a strip search, please provide a breakdown of the type of illicit substance found for:

- (a) 2019?
- (b) 2020?
- (c) 2021?
- (d) 2022?
- (e) 1 January to 30 June 2023?

Illicit Substance	Event Reported Year					Total
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (to 30 June)	
Cannabis	255	250	190	167	116	978
Cannabis Plant	2	0	3	0	0	5
Cocaine	174	184	159	142	80	739
Counterfeit Drug	0	1	0	0	0	1
Gamma Hydroxybutyrate(Ghb)/Related Compd	42	45	27	20	26	160
Heroin	60	64	41	47	28	240
Lsd	10	9	3	6	7	35
Mdma (Ecstasy)	470	212	43	159	101	985
Methadone	1	3	9	3	3	19
Methyl/Amphetamine	342	416	303	217	118	1,396
Nps (Synthetic Cannabis)	1	1	2	4	0	8
Nps (Synthetic Other)	1	0	0	0	0	1
Opium		2	3	3	0	8
Other Drug	48	53	30	55	28	214
Pharmaceutical Drug	111	89	83	80	45	408
Precursor	1	0	0	0	0	1
Steroid	5	2	1	0	0	8
Unknown	1	3	7	8	3	22
Total	1,311	1,137	774	782	474	4,478

NOTES:

- All figures refer to in field strip searches where an illicit substance was found.
- All figures are by event reported calendar year.

SUPPLEMENTARY QON 10

Where an illicit substance was found as a result of a strip search, please provide a breakdown of the amount found, broken down into categories of 'small quantity', 'traffickable quantity', 'indictable quantity', 'commercial quantity', and 'large commercial quantity' as defined by the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985, for:

- (a) 2019?
 (b) 2020?
 (c) 2021?
 (d) 2022?
 (e) 1 January to 30 June 2023?

Illicit Substance	Event Reported Year				2023 (to 30 June)	Total
	2019	2020	2021	2022		
Cannabis						
Other	213	213	153	133	96	808
Indictable	2	0	0	0	1	3
Small	19	18	17	11	5	70
Traffickable	0	1	0	1	0	2
Unknown	21	20	21	27	14	103
Cannabis Plant						
Other	2	0	2	0	0	4
Small	0	0	1	0	0	1
Cocaine						
Other	38	55	44	38	16	191
Commercial	0	0	1	0	0	1
Indictable	47	43	43	40	27	200
Large Commercial	0	0	0	1	0	1
Small	50	36	24	21	12	143
Traffickable	20	26	29	23	8	106
Unknown	22	24	25	21	18	110
Counterfeit Drug						
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	1	0	0	0	1
Gamma Hydroxybutyrate(Ghb)/Related Compd						
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indictable	23	31	16	11	13	94
Small	1	1	2	0	1	5
Traffickable	1	0	0	1	1	3
Unknown	17	13	9	8	11	58
Heroin						
Other	11	11	10	6	5	43
Indictable	7	8	1	3	2	21
Small	7	15	6	10	5	43
Traffickable	4	3	1	0	1	9
Unknown	32	29	24	29	15	129
Lsd						
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Commercial	6	1	1	2	1	11
Indictable	4	3	1	2	6	16
Large Commercial	0	2	0	1	0	3
Unknown	0	3	1	1	0	5
Mdma (Ecstasy)						
Other	125	57	11	26	21	240
Commercial	1	2	0	1	0	4
Indictable	182	77	15	64	39	377
Small	40	15	2	10	4	71
Traffickable	80	38	10	30	25	183
Unknown	47	24	5	29	14	119
Methadone						
Indictable	1	1	7	1	0	10
Small	0	0	1	0	0	1
Unknown	0	2	1	2	3	8
Methyl/Amphetamine						
Other	86	99	74	60	33	352
Indictable	45	57	44	34	20	200
Large Commercial	0	1	0	0	0	1
Small	67	100	55	34	21	277
Traffickable	20	34	26	21	8	109

Unknown	131	133	109	73	37	483
Nps (Synthetic Cannabis)						
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	1	1	2	4	0	8
Nps (Synthetic Other)						
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	1	0	0	0	0	1
Opium						
Other	0	0	0	1	0	1
Unknown		2	3	2	0	7
Other Drug						
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	48	53	30	55	28	214
Pharmaceutical Drug						
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	112	89	83	80	45	409
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Steroid						
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small	2	1	0	0	0	3
Unknown	3	1	1	0	0	5
Grand Total	1,310	1,134	767	774	471	4,456

NOTES:

- All figures refer to in field strip searches where an illicit substance was found.
- All figures are by event reported calendar year.
- The sum of rows across all drug types may not equal the grand total figure as one strip search may have lead to multiple drug types and sizes being seized.
- The "drug size" field is used to account for "amount" as specified in the question. This field draws on the weight entered by the recording officer at the time the incident is recorded and then, based on the weight outlined for that drug in Schedule 1 of the act, designates the corresponding "drug size" classification.
- The weight entered by the officer at the time the incident is recorded is not always indicative of the raw weight of the drug and may include packaging. It also may not be indicative of the corresponding offence the individual is charged with.
- "Other" quantity includes 'half small' and 'not small'. These are quantity types used by the police which are not inline with the legislation.
- "Pharmaceutical Drug" and "Other Drug" refer to broad groups of drugs and therefore do not have corresponding weight/size classifications and will always return "Unknown".

SUPPLEMENTARY QON 20(b)i. & ii.

Of the general searches undertaken at Listen Out Sydney 2023, how many resulted in findings of:
(b) an illicit substance?

- i. Please provide a breakdown of the amount found, broken down into categories of ‘small quantity’, ‘traffickable quantity’, ‘indictable quantity’, ‘commercial quantity’, and ‘large commercial quantity’ as defined by the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985.
- ii. Please provide a breakdown of the type of illicit substance found.

Drug Name	Drug Size	General Searches
Cannabis	Below Small	7
Cannabis	Unknown	4
Cannabis Plant	Below Small	1
Cocaine	Small	5
Cocaine	Unknown	3
Lsd	Commercial	2
Mdma (Ecstasy)	Small	12
Mdma (Ecstasy)	Indictable	14
Mdma (Ecstasy)	Traffickable	7
Mdma (Ecstasy)	Unknown	2
Methyl/Amphetamine	Small	2
Methyl/Amphetamine	Unknown	2
Other Drug	Unknown	3
Pharmaceutical Drug	Unknown	1

Counts refer to number of General Searches where the named drug type & drug size was found.

NOTES:

- The "166 general searches" referred to in the question (sourced from QON 1339) have been revised for this question. This is because figures change depending on the date the data is run (which impacts all subsequent figures) and also due to an error with the previous QON where "General Searches" were inclusive of all searches rather than those with the specific parameter "Search Type>General". The location parameters for Listen Out 2023 were also revised.
- Weapon is classified as anything recorded under the involved object involvement type of "Knife/Implement" within the person search incident.
- Searches where a drug was found checks where the person named in the search was also the POI in a drug detection in the same event.
- Statistical Services standardised methodology for "music festival incidents" used (see below)

Incidents are determined to relate to a specific music festival if they meet the following requirements:

- The incident has an incident start date that matches the date of the music festival in question.
 - The incident also meets one of the following requirements:
 - a) The incident is linked to a relevant operation related to the music festival.
- Incidents are determined to relate to a specific music festival if they meet the following requirements:
- The incident has an incident start date that matches the date of the music festival in question.
 - The incident also meets one of the following requirements:
 - a) The incident is linked to a relevant operation related to the music festival.
 - b) The incident occurred at the same Location>Property Name where the music festival was held.
 - c) The incident occurred at the same Location>Suburb where the music festival was held.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- This is the only available method the NSWPF has to classify whether certain incidents relate to music festivals.
- Due to the broad nature of the parameters (date & suburb) there is a potential for overcounting.

Listen Out 2023

Invoice Date	Event / Purpose	Shift Type	Hourly Rate	No# Hours worked (per officer)	No# of Police	Cost
30/09/2023	LISTEN OUT - Music Festival	User Charges (Cost Recovery)*	\$144.00	6.00	17	\$14,688.00
		User Charges (Cost Recovery)*	\$144.00	7.00	1	\$1,008.00
		User Charges (Cost Recovery)*	\$144.00	9.00	30	\$38,880.00
		User Charges (Cost Recovery)*	\$144.00	12.00	90	\$155,520.00
		User Charges (Cost Recovery)*	\$144.00	12.50	5	\$9,000.00
		User Charges (Cost Recovery)*	\$144.00	13.00	2	\$3,744.00
		User Charges (Cost Recovery)*	\$144.00	13.50	5	\$9,720.00
		User Charges (Cost Recovery)*	\$144.00	14.00	3	\$6,048.00
		Other Cost (Marked Police Vehicle)	\$23.00	7.00	1	\$161.00
		Other Cost (Mounted Police- Horse)	\$28.80	9.00	2	\$518.40
		Other Cost (Marked Police Vehicle)	\$23.00	12.00	1	\$276.00
		Other Cost (Trail Bikes)	\$44.40	12.00	2	\$1,065.60
		Other Cost (Police Command Bus)	\$28.80	12.50	1	\$360.00
		Other Cost(Crowd Control AM with Vehicle)	\$23.00	12.50	1	\$287.50
		Other Cost(Marked Police Vehicle)	\$23.00	12.50	1	\$287.50
		Other Cost(Prisoner Transport- Marked Police Caged Vehicle)	\$23.00	12.50	2	\$575.00
				Total inc GST		\$ 242,139.00

Knockout Outdoor 2023

Invoice Date	Event / Purpose	Shift Type	Hourly Rate	No# Hours worked (per officer)	No# of Police	Cost
30/09/2023	KNOCKOUT - Music Festival	User Charges (Cost Recovery)*	\$144.00	8.00	16	\$18,432.00
		User Charges (Cost Recovery)*	\$144.00	9.00	6	\$7,776.00
		User Charges (Cost Recovery)*	\$144.00	10.00	50	\$72,000.00
		User Charges (Cost Recovery)*	\$144.00	10.50	3	\$4,536.00
		User Charges (Cost Recovery)*	\$144.00	11.50	2	\$3,312.00
		Other Cost (Bicycle)	\$9.00	9.00	6	\$486.00
		Other Cost (Caged Truck)	\$28.80	11.00	1	\$316.80
				Total inc GST		\$ 106,858.80