

**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016-2017  
Supplementary Answers**

**General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1**

**TREASURY, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

Hearing: Thursday 1 September 2016

**Questions from Mr David Shoebridge MLC**

**QUESTION - Ellerton Drive extension**

1. How much has the NSW Government already contributed to the Ellerton Drive Extension project?
2. What have the funds been used for and when?
3. Are these funds part of or additional to the \$25 million grant announced in June 2014?
4. Has the department or any other department of the NSW Government prepared a business case or a risk assessment for the proposed Ellerton Drive Extension? Please provide details?
5. If not, when will this work be undertaken?
6. What requirements or benchmarks must be met before the NSW Government will release the balance of funding it has committed to the proposed Ellerton Drive Extension?
7. How will the department assess whether these benchmarks have been met?
8. Should the department assess that the benchmarks have not been met, what does it propose to do?
9. Has the NSW government had any discussions with the mayor or staff of the former Queanbeyan City Council or the current Administrator or staff of Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council about financial contingencies? For example, in the event that the actual construction costs are higher than the estimated, has the NSW government provided any undertakings to cover any shortfall in funding that cannot be met by the proposed NSW and Australian government grants, and the council's proposed loan? If so, please provide details?
  - a) If not, what is the department's/government's view about providing any such financial 'safety net' for the council for this project?

**ANSWER:**

- 1-9. These questions would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight.

**QUESTION - Government Sector Employment Act**

10. What is the current status of proposed amendments to the GSE Act?
11. What is the anticipated impact of these amendments?
12. What provision will any amendments make to provide for those who might have lost entitlements including continuation of service?

**ANSWER:**

- 10-12. These questions would be more appropriately directed to the Public Service Commission.

<b>QUESTION – Right to strike</b>
13. Does the Minister support the right of workers to strike?
<b>ANSWER:</b>
13. The Government acknowledges employees' rights to engage in legal industrial action.

<b>QUESTION – Casual Workers</b>
14. What steps are being taken to implement stronger working conditions and rights for casual workers?
15. Has any consideration been given to increasing the casual loading on hourly rates to recognise casual workers lack of paid annual leave, paid sick leave, paid public holidays or protection against unfair dismissal?
<b>ANSWER:</b>
14-15. Private sector casual workers in NSW fall under the coverage of the national Fair Work system.

<b>QUESTION – Portable Long Service Leave</b>
16. Is the review of the proposal to extend long service leave to industries beyond contract cleaning publicly available?
17. What steps are currently proposed in relation to Portable Long Service in NSW?
<b>ANSWER:</b>
16-17. I refer you to the report on the NSW Industrial Relations website.

<b>QUESTION – Nursing pay rates (from Susan Jarnason)</b>
18. What analysis is there as to why so few nurses are offered promotions or positions beyond a Grade 1-3 when there is a Grade 9 in the NSW Nursing Award?
19. What is the justification for long service leave for nurses to be accrued on a 40 hr/ week (5 days) basis but must take it on a 7 day per week basis?
<b>ANSWER:</b>
18-19. These questions would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Health.

<b>QUESTION – Fire and Rescue NSW</b>
20. When will Justice Boland's report into allegations of sexual harassment, intimidation, discrimination and bullying at Fire and Rescue NSW be publically released?
<b>ANSWER:</b>
20. This question would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Emergency Services.

<b>QUESTION – Bullying Laws</b>	
21.	The Parliamentary inquiry into Bullying at WorkCover recommended a statewide workplace bullying law, what steps have you taken to implement this recommendation?
22.	What is the current estimated extent of workplace bullying in the NSW Public Service?
23.	What change has there been to the estimated extent of workplace bullying in the NSW Public Service?
24.	To what extent do you believe the statements of your Government denigrating public sector workers contribute to difficulties they face in their workplaces?
25.	What work has your office done with the relevant ministers to address concerns regarding endemic bullying in the following agencies: a) The NSW Police Force? b) The Rural Fire Service? c) Emergency Services including the SES?
<b>ANSWER:</b>	
21.	This question would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Finance, Services and Property.
22-23.	This question would be more appropriately directed to the Public Service Commission.
24.	The Government acknowledges and appreciates the efforts of all public sector workers to support our agenda for making NSW a great place to live and work.
25.	This question would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Emergency Services.

<b>QUESTION – Retail workers</b>	
26.	How many complaints were made by retail workers reporting coercion, harassment, threat or intimidation by or on behalf of their retail employer to work on Boxing Day? a) Of these complaints, how many resulted in a breach of the Retail Trading Act?
<b>ANSWER:</b>	
26.	I understand NSW Industrial Relations did not receive any formal complaints in relation to any breaches of the <i>Retail Trading Act 2008</i> on Boxing Day 2015.

**Questions from the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition)**

<b>QUESTION – Miscellaneous</b>	
27.	What were the total savings from efficiency dividends in each year operation for all agencies/ clusters since 2011/12?
28.	What are the total projected savings from efficiency dividends in each year of operation for all agencies/ clusters through the forward estimates?
29.	What is the Treasury technical definition of 'efficiency dividends'?

30. How are efficiency dividends calculated?
31. What modelling has been done on the effect of an increase in efficiency dividends from 1.5% to 2%? What were the findings?
32. What modelling has been done on the effect of a decrease in efficiency dividends from 1.5% to 1%? What were the findings?
33. Treasury only projected to spend \$3.16 million on consultants in 2014-15. But the 2015-16 Budgeted Forward Estimates Detailed Report shows Treasury now expected spend \$6.356 million on consultants last financial year. What are the reasons for this?
34. For what purpose was the largest consultant contract awarded in 2015-16?
  - a) Who was that contract awarded to?
  - b) For what amount?
35. In 2015-16 which firms received the most funding from the NSW Treasury consultant's budget?
36. The 2015-16 Budgeted Forward Estimates Detailed Report shows that the 2016-17 Budget for Consultant's has gone up again by another 10 percent to \$6.895 million. What are the principal contracts that Treasury expects to award this financial year?
37. The 2015-16 Budgeted Forward Estimates Detailed Report shows that salaries and wages (including recreational leave) in Treasury is expected to increase by 23 percent (from \$56.87 million projected in 15/16, to \$69.87 million in the 16/17 Budget). What are the reasons for this blowout?
38. Treasury proposed to spend \$6.419 million on contractors in 2014-15, and in 15-16 the projection was \$8.286 million.
  - a) What are the reasons for this 30 per cent increase?
  - b) For what purpose was the largest contract awarded in 2015-16?
39. Taxation revenue forecasts for 2014/15 to 2019/20 show that revenue from racing is declining each year – in 19/20 at \$82.9m it will be around half of the total revenue from 14/15. What change to this projected figure do you expect in 2019/20 as a consequence of the passage of the Greyhound Racing Prohibition Bill?
40. On what basis and on what assumptions does Treasury forecast an ongoing increase in royalties from coal over the forward estimates?
  - a) What are the confidence levels of these forecasts being met?

**ANSWER:**

27-32. The 2016-17 Budget confirms an annual efficiency dividend of 1.5 per cent on agencies, commencing in 2017-18, targeting savings from agency back offices.

It continues a practice the Government has undertaken since it was elected to impose modest efficiency dividends that target back office spending, allowing the Government to invest more on the frontline and maintain a strong fiscal position.

The efficiency dividend announced in the 2016-17 Budget is expected to attain a net saving of \$1.41 billion over a three year period to 2019-20.

I note that the policy of a 1.5 per cent efficiency dividend was also pursued by the former Labor Government.

33. NSW Treasury is currently implementing the biggest financial governance reform in the country.
- 34-36. Financial statements, including legal fees expenditure and expenditure on consultants are disclosed according to requirements in Treasury's Annual Reports.
37. This relates to the establishment of the Commissioning and Contestability Unit and Financial Risk Management teams.
38. Financial statements, including expenditure on contractors are disclosed according to requirements in Treasury's Annual Reports.
39. This will depend on a variety of factors, including the extent to which punters switch their expenditure on greyhound wagering to other activities subject to NSW taxes, including interstate wagering.
40. I refer you to Budget Paper No. 1.

#### **QUESTION – Newcastle Port**

41. When did you become aware of the content of the Port Commitment Deeds for Ports a. Botany and Kembla?
42. Did the Government advise the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) of the content of the Port Commitment Deeds for Ports Botany and Kembla and its content before entering into any lease for Port Botany and Port Kembla?
43. If the answer to 2. is yes, what was the response of the ACCC?
44. Now that the Port Commitment Deeds for Ports Botany and Kembla have been released into the public arena, have the terms in the document been agreed to by the NSW Government?
45. Was there, or is there agreement between the Government and the ACCC that the Government was carrying on a business for the purposes of the Commonwealth Competition and Consumer Act 2010 at the Port of Newcastle, when the government-owned Newcastle Port Corporation was the port's operator?
46. Was there, or is there agreement between the Government and the ACCC about the date upon which the NSW Government ceased carrying on a business for the purposes of the Commonwealth Competition and Consumer Act 2010 at the Port of Newcastle, when the government-owned Newcastle Port Corporation was the port's operator? If so, what is that date?
47. Does the Government's charge on containers at the Port of Newcastle potentially breach Section 45 of the Commonwealth Competition and Consumer Act 2010?
48. When did the NSW Government claim immunity from competition law regarding the Port Commitment Deeds?

49. What contact or discussions with the ACCC has the NSW Government, or any part of the NSW Government, had regarding the Port Commitment Deeds?
50. Why did the government advise this Committee on 22 August 2014 that a container terminal at the Port of Newcastle was “uneconomic enterprise contrary to market demand” but fail to advise it of the cap on container movements and the payment required for exceeding the cap contained in the Port Commitment Deeds?
51. Why did the government agree to the cap for container movements at the Port of Newcastle and the payment required for breaching the cap Port Commitment Deeds?

**ANSWER:**

41. As you are aware the NSW Government was a counterparty to the port transactions.
- 42-43. I am advised the Government's transaction team engaged extensively with the ACCC from the early stages of all the port transactions regarding the competition and regulatory framework supporting the transactions.
44. Please see response by my colleague, Minister Gay, available on the Legislative Council's Hansard.
- 45-46. I am advised that the extent to which the Government carries on a business for the purposes of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* is a matter of law not agreement.
- 47-49. See response 42-43.
- 50-51. The Government's comprehensive NSW Freight and Ports Strategy noted that the Port would continue to be NSW's primary coal export and will continue to service bulk grain and other commodities.

**QUESTION – Industrial Relations Commission**

52. In the Brief to Stakeholders on the integration of the Industrial Court with the NSW Supreme Court, the NSW Government “has confirmed that the total number of members [of the IRC] will remain at five”: paragraph 5.6. Given the IRC currently has six members available to perform tribunal work\*, why is the NSW Government reducing the resources available to perform the work of the Commission?
- \*The IRC is currently comprised of the President, Justice Walton, Acting Justice Kite who is also commissioned as an Acting Deputy President of the IRC, and Commissioners Tabaa, Newell and Murphy – all of whom perform tribunal work.*
53. What impact will this reduction in membership of the IRC have on the performance of its work, including meeting time standards and completing matters?
54. Does the NSW Government intend to continue Acting Deputy President Kite as a member of the Industrial Relations Commission?

**ANSWER:**

52. The Industrial Relations Commission currently consists of five Commissioners. Justice Kite was sworn in on 2 December 2014 for a temporary term and has continued in the role to hear those matters not finalised during his temporary appointment. No new matters are able to be allocated to Justice Kite.

53. As the above answer explains, there is no reduction.

54. Please refer to the response to question 52.

#### **QUESTION – Office of Industrial Relations**

55. What is the Budget for the Office of Industrial Relations in 2016-2017?

56. What functions will be performed by the Office of Industrial Relations in 2016-2017?

57. What was the Budget for the Office of Industrial Relations in 2015-2016?

58. What was the expenditure of the Office of Industrial Relations in 2015-2016?

59. What was the breakdown of expenditure of the Office of Industrial Relations in 2015-2016, by item?

60. What functions were performed by the Office of Industrial Relations in 2015-2016?

61. How many complaints regarding breaches of industrial legislation were made to the Office of Industrial Relations in 2015-2016? What is the breakdown of those complaints by industry and by agency?

62. How much was recovered in wages in 2015-2016? How much was imposed and recovered in penalties against employers, by industry and by agency?

63. How many investigations regarding breaches of industrial legislation were undertaken by the Office of Industrial Relations in 2015-2016? What is the breakdown of those complaints by industry and by agency?

64. How many investigations were completed by the Office of Industrial Relations in 2015-2016? What is the breakdown of those complaints by industry and by agency?

65. Given the negative impact of workplace bullying in both the NSW public sector and the private sector, when will the NSW Government implement recommendation 11 of the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1 report on allegations of bullying in WorkCover delivered in June 2014? If it will not implement this recommendation, why not?

#### **ANSWER:**

55-64. Information about NSW Office of Industrial Relations is published in the NSW Treasury's Annual Report.

65. This question would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Finance, Services and Property.

#### **QUESTION – Financial Management Transformation (FMT)**

66. As at June 2015, what was the projected completion date/s of the FMT program:

a) PRIME IT Solution?

b) Legislative reform?

c) Program budgeting?

67. Has any aspect of the FMT program been 'rebaselined' and if so, what does 'rebaselining' mean?

68. How many Treasury employees/officers have worked on the FMT project since its inception?

**ANSWER:**

66-67. The Financial Management Transformation project is on track to deliver the 2017/18 NSW Budget. Policy and legislative reforms will be progressed in parallel.

68. The Financial Management Transformation project is a whole-of-Treasury reform.

**QUESTION – Consultants**

69. What is the total amount that NSW Treasury spent on consultants – recurrent and capital – for the financial years?

a) 2011-12

b) 2012-13

c) 2013-14

d) 2014-15

e) 2015-16

70. What is the largest consultant contract for 2015-16?

a) What was that contract for?

71. In 2015-16 which firms received the most funding from the NSW Treasury consultants budget?

**ANSWER:**

69-71. Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants are disclosed according to requirements in Treasury's Annual Reports.

**QUESTION – Efficiency Dividends**

72. How much money has been saved from the establishment of the efficiency dividends since 2011/12?

73. Do you have any modelling on the effects of an increase or decrease in the efficiency dividend?

74. What modelling has been done on the effect of an increase in efficiency dividends from 1.5% to 2%? What were the findings?

75. What modelling has been done on the effect of a decrease in efficiency dividends from 1.5% to 1%? What were the findings?

76. Are the savings from the Government's policy on efficiency dividends regularly monitored?

77. What is the name of the unit that monitors the ongoing savings of the efficiency dividends?
78. What document is prepared concerning the efficiency dividend?

**ANSWER:**

72-78. See answers 27-32.

**QUESTION – Efficiency Dividends**

79. What was actual productivity growth in the year to June 2016?

**ANSWER:**

79. NSW productivity growth is provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, which has not yet calculated the relevant data.

**QUESTION – Royalties from Coal**

80. On what basis and on what assumptions does Treasury forecast an ongoing increase in royalties from coal over the forward estimates?
- a) What are the confidence levels of these forecasts being met?

**ANSWER:**

80. Please refer to Question 40.

**QUESTION – First home owners grant**

81. Has any modelling been conducted by NSW Treasury to show what savings the Government would make from reducing the first home owners grant from \$15,000 to \$10,000 as at 1 January 2016?
- a) If so, what are the projected savings for:
- i. 1 January 2016 to 30 June 2016
  - ii. 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017
  - iii. 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018
  - iv. 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

**ANSWER:**

81. The volume of grants is subject to demand. I note first home owner grants are up 11 per cent, more new homes are being built, and construction is at record levels.

**QUESTION – GST increase**

82. Has any modelling been conducted by NSW Treasury to show the impact of increasing the GST to 15% on NSW revenue levels?

- a) If so, what is the amount of additional NSW revenue forecasted on an annual average basis?

**ANSWER:**

82. An increase to the rate of the Goods and Services Tax to 15 per cent is no longer under consideration.

**QUESTION – Electricity assets**

83. What are the total transaction costs to date for the sale of Ausgrid?  
a) Please provide a breakdown of total legal, financial advisers, PR and all other consultancies – breakdown to date?  
b) Please also provide an estimate of the final total transaction costs?
84. Have any payments by NSW to the bidders for Ausgrid been made or agreed?

**ANSWER:**

83. All procurement of advisers is done in line with the Government tender guidelines and the NSW Government Procurement Policy and information is published as required.
84. No

**QUESTION – AER decision**

85. What is the total cost to date of the challenge to the AER's determinations for Ausgrid, Endeavour Energy and Essential Energy and associated legal actions?  
a) What is the breakdown of these costs – barristers, legal firms, consultants etc.?  
b) What is the estimate for the final cost of this challenge and associated legal actions?

**ANSWER:**

85. Financial statements, including legal fees expenditure and expenditure on consultants are disclosed according to requirements in SOC Annual Reports.

**QUESTION – Greyhound racing**

86. Has any modelling been conducted or briefings completed by NSW Treasury to show the impact of closing the Greyhound industry on the NSW economy? If so:  
a) Did any briefs/modelling indicate the approximate/estimated amount of jobs that would be lost?  
b) Did any briefs/modelling indicate amount of taxation revenue that would be lost?  
c) Did any briefs/modelling indicate how much taxation revenue would be generated for 2016-17 from the Greyhound industry?

**ANSWER:**

- 86- This question would be more appropriately directed to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Justice and Police, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Racing.

- a-c) This will depend on a variety of factors, including the extent to which punters switch their expenditure on greyhound wagering to other activities subject to NSW taxes, including interstate wagering.

**QUESTION – Senior Executive Service Positions**

87. How many Senior Executive Service Positions existed in NSW Treasury for the following financial years?
- a) 2011-12
  - b) 2012-13
  - c) 2013-14
  - d) 2014-15
  - e) 2015-16
88. How much in total was paid in salaries, wages and other entitlements for Senior Executive Service Positions in NSW Treasury for the following financial years?
- a) 2011-12
  - b) 2012-13
  - c) 2013-14
  - d) 2014-15
  - e) 2015-16

**ANSWER:**

87-88. Information regarding staffing levels and remuneration for NSW Treasury is disclosed according to requirements in Treasury's Annual Reports.

**QUESTION – Privatisation of Sport and Recreation Camps**

89. Has NSW Treasury modelled the impact of privatising sport and recreation camps?
- a) If so, how much revenue will this generate for NSW?

**ANSWER:**

89. This question would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events, and Minister for Sport.

**QUESTION – TAFE recurrent and capital appropriations/ grants**

90. Please provide NSW Treasury information for total recurrent and capital appropriations (actual amounts not budgeted or revised) allocated to TAFE NSW in financial years:
- a) 2011-12
  - b) 2012-13
  - c) 2013-14
91. Please provide NSW Treasury information for total recurrent and capital grants allocated (actual amounts not budgeted or revised) to TAFE NSW in financial years:
- a) 2014-15
  - b) 2015-16

**ANSWER:**

90-91. During the period requested, TAFE was a division of the Department of Education.

**QUESTION – Treasury jobs**

92. How many NSW Treasury job advertisements have been released in financial years:
- a) 2013-14
  - b) 2014-15
  - c) 2015-16
  - d) 1 July 2016 to current

**ANSWER:**

92. Personnel statements are disclosed according to requirements in Treasury's Annual Reports.

**QUESTION – NSW Waratah bonds**

93. Please provide the actual returns for the NSW Government from NSW Waratah Bonds for the financial years:
- a) 2011-12
  - b) 2012-13
  - c) 2013-14
  - d) 2014-15
  - e) 2015-16

**ANSWER:**

93. The approximate actual returns for the NSW Government from NSW Waratah Bonds between 2011-12 and 2015-16 is contained within Budget Paper No.2 2016-17.

**QUESTION – Privatisation of Land and Property Information (LPI)**

94. Has Treasury modelled how much revenue the privatisation of LPI will generate?
- a) If so, what is the estimated/approximate amount?

**ANSWER:**

94. The Land and Property Information NSW (Authorised Transaction) Bill 2016 recently passed Parliament.

Anticipated revenue from the transaction is Commercial-in-Confidence, as disclosure could detrimentally affect bids.

**QUESTION – Net debt**

95. Has NSW Treasury modelled or been provided an acceptable level of public sector debt as a percentage of GSP per year?
- a) If so, can you please provide what the accepted level/benchmark is in percentage form?

**ANSWER:**

95. The Government is committed to maintaining the triple-A credit rating. The current effective zero General Government net debt position is consistent with the policy of maintaining the triple-A credit rating.

**QUESTION – Cash position**

96. Has NSW Treasury modelled/briefed or been provided an acceptable cash position per year?  
a) If so, can you please provide what the accepted level is?

**ANSWER:**

96. The Government is committed to maintaining the triple-A credit rating. Credit rating agencies have publically stated the Government has ample liquidity, consistent with the policy of maintaining the triple-A.

**QUESTION – Newcastle Port**

97. When did the Treasurer and/or NSW Treasury become aware of the content of the Port Commitment Deeds for Ports Botany and Kembla?
98. Did the Government advise the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) of the content of the Port Commitment Deeds for Ports Botany and Kembla and its content before entering into any lease for Port Botany and Port Kembla?  
a) If yes, what was the response of the ACCC?
99. Was there, or is there agreement between the Government and the ACCC that the Government was carrying on a business for the purposes of the Commonwealth Competition and Consumer Act 2010 at the Port of Newcastle, when the government-owned Newcastle Port Corporation was the port's operator?
100. Was there, or is there agreement between the Government and the ACCC about the date upon which the NSW Government ceased carrying on a business for the purposes of the Commonwealth Competition and Consumer Act 2010 at the Port of Newcastle, when the government-owned Newcastle Port Corporation was the port's operator? If so, what is that date?
101. Does the Government's charge on containers at the Port of Newcastle potentially breach Section 45 of the Commonwealth Competition and Consumer Act 2010?
102. When did the NSW Government claim immunity from competition law regarding the Port Commitment Deeds?
103. What contact or discussions with the ACCC has the NSW Government, or any part of the NSW Government, had regarding the Port Commitment Deeds?
104. Why did the government advise this Committee on 22 August 2014 that a container terminal at the Port of Newcastle was "uneconomic enterprise contrary to market demand" but fail to advise it of the cap on container movements and the payment required for

exceeding the cap contained in the Port Commitment Deeds?

105. Why did the government agree to the cap for container movements at the Port of Newcastle and the payment required for breaching the cap Port Commitment Deeds?
106. Did the NSW Government receive any advice that entering into the Port Commitment Deed would increase the proceeds that the NSW Government would receive from the port transactions?  
a) If so, will you release this advice?
107. Did the NSW Government receive any advice that selling Port Botany and Port Kembla to the same buyer would increase the proceeds that the NSW Government would receive from the transaction?  
a) If so, will you release this advice?

**ANSWER:**

97-105. I refer you to answers 41- 51.

106 – 107. The Government seeks advice on a range of issues when undertaking significant transactions and much of this advice is commercial in confidence to ensure value for money for NSW taxpayers.

**QUESTION – Industrial Relations Commission**

108. In the Brief to Stakeholders on the integration of the Industrial Court with the NSW Supreme Court, the NSW Government “has confirmed that the total number of members [of the IRC] will remain at five”: paragraph 5.6. Given the IRC currently has six members available to perform tribunal work\*, why is the NSW Government reducing the resources available to perform the work of the Commission?

*\*The IRC is currently comprised of the President, Justice Walton, Acting Justice Kite who is also commissioned as an Acting Deputy President of the IRC, and Commissioners Tabaa, Newell and Murphy – all of whom perform tribunal work.*

109. What impact will this reduction in membership of the IRC have on the performance of its work, including meeting time standards and completing matters?

110. Does the NSW Government intend to continue

**ANSWER:**

108- 110.I refer you to answers 52-54.

**QUESTION – Office of Industrial Relations**

111. What is the Budget for the Office of Industrial Relations in 2016-2017?

112. What functions will be performed by the Office of Industrial Relations in 2016-2017?

113. What was the Budget for the Office of Industrial Relations in 2015-2016?

114. What was the expenditure of the Office of Industrial Relations in 2015-2016?
115. What was the breakdown of expenditure of the Office of Industrial Relations in 2015-2016, by item?
116. What functions were performed by the Office of Industrial Relations in 2015-2016?
117. How many complaints regarding breaches of industrial legislation were made to the Office of Industrial Relations in 2015-2016? What is the breakdown of those complaints by industry and by agency?
118. How much was recovered in wages in 2015-2016? How much was imposed and recovered in penalties against employers, by industry and by agency?
119. How many investigations regarding breaches of industrial legislation were undertaken by the Office of Industrial Relations in 2015-2016? What is the breakdown of those complaints by industry and by agency?
120. How many investigations were completed by the Office of Industrial Relations in 2015-2016? What is the breakdown of those complaints by industry and by agency?
121. Given the negative impact of workplace bullying in both the NSW public sector and the private sector, when will the NSW Government implement recommendation 11 of the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1 report on allegations of bullying in WorkCover delivered in June 2014? If it will not implement this recommendation, why not?

**ANSWER:**

111- 121. I refer you to answers 55-65.

**QUESTION – Coalition’s Small Business Tax Cut Commitments**

122. Please advise the number of Business Mortgages Duties transactions, the average payment per transaction, the total yearly amount for:
- a) 2011-12
  - b) 2012-13
  - c) 2013-14
  - d) 2014-15
  - e) 2015-16
123. Please advise the number of Transfer Duty on Non-Real Business Transfers transactions, the average payment per transaction, the total yearly amount for:
- a) 2011-12
  - b) 2012-13
  - c) 2013-14
  - d) 2014-15
  - e) 2015-16
124. Please advise the number of Share Transfer Duty (Duty on Unlisted Marketable

Securities) transactions, the average payment per transaction, the total yearly amount for:

- a) 2011-12
- b) 2012-13
- c) 2013-14
- d) 2014-15
- e) 2015-16

125. Regarding the Mortgage Duties, Duties in Unlisted Marketable Securities and Non-Real Transfer Duties paid from 2011-12 to 2015-16, please provide the number of:
- a) Small businesses that paid the duties
  - b) Medium sized businesses that paid the duties
  - c) Large businesses that paid the duties
126. Regarding the Mortgage Duties, Duties in Unlisted Securities and Non-Real Transfer Duties paid from 2011-12 to 2015-16, please provide the proportion in percentage terms (please provide year by year as well as aggregate amounts):
- a) That small businesses paid out of the total duties
  - b) That medium sized businesses that paid out of the total duties
  - c) That large businesses paid out of the total duties
  - d)
127. On 24 February 2015, you and the then Treasurer Andrew Constance put out a media release which “launched a campaign against Labor’s new Business Tax”, claiming that Labor had “secretly lumped a \$5.1 billion tax on business” and that as a result “over ten years, each business will be paying the extra tax three times, and lose \$7,500”. In relation to that release:
- a) Did the Government collect these same taxes for the last five years and only introduced legislation to remove the taxes in the 2016 Budget?
  - b) If so, how could the Government claim that they were “new” and not “secret”?
  - c) Given the claim that “each business will be paying the extra tax three times and lose \$7,500”, does the Government have evidence that each business in NSW will enter into a mortgage or transfer shares or business assets three times every year? If so, where is this evidence located?
128. Please advise the number of Mortgage Duty transactions from 2013-2014 and the average payment per transaction?
129. Please advise the number of Non-Real transfer Duty transactions from 2013-2014 and the average payment per transaction?
130. Please advise the number of Share Transfer Duty (Duty in Unlisted Securities) transactions from 2013-2014 and the average payment per transaction?

**ANSWER:**

122-130. These questions would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Finance, Services and Property.

<b>QUESTION – Payroll tax</b>	
131.	What is the completion rate of data entry for customers (that is once they have commenced entering data, how many are able to complete the transaction without time outs) for the Government's Payroll Tax portal?
132.	What is the average cost to a small business of an audit of the Government's Payroll Tax rebate?
<b>ANSWER:</b>	
131-132.	These questions would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Finance, Services and Property.

<b>QUESTION – Domestic Violence Leave and Awareness</b>	
133.	For each department, statutory agency and/or other bodies in the Minister's Portfolio please report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Date of introduction of domestic violence leave into enterprise agreements/contracts of employment, awards as applicable;</li> <li>b) Whether or not all employees and/or contractors are eligible for domestic violence leave;</li> <li>c) Number of days of domestic violence leave that have been taken in each financial year since the introduction of such leave;</li> <li>d) Number of days available for eligible staff to access domestic violence leave in each financial year;</li> <li>e) Number of other personal days of leave that have been taken in each financial year since the introduction of domestic violence leave;</li> <li>f) Number of sick days available for eligible staff to access domestic violence leave in each financial year;</li> <li>g) Whether or not all staff and/or contractors have access to Employee Assistance Programs?</li> <li>h) What training has been undertaken with management and administration for those involved in approving and/or processing domestic violence leave on issues such as? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Privacy and confidentiality of information about domestic violence</li> <li>ii. Access to emotional, psychological, financial and medical support which may be required</li> </ul> </li> <li>i) Who has provided training on domestic violence in the workplace?</li> <li>j) What percentage of staff in each agency has undertaken domestic violence training?</li> <li>k) What efforts have been made to ensure that perpetrators (or their accomplices) within the staffing profile are not able to access personal information of victims in order to identify their location, or other information which may assist in committing domestic violence against them, including changing or accessing records in such a way as to disadvantage them financially or legally?</li> </ul>
<b>ANSWER:</b>	
133.	a) In relation to NSW Treasury, initiatives have been developed to enable and support victims of domestic violence to enter or return to the workforce. More information can be found on the NSW Treasury website.

- b) Ongoing and temporary employees are able to access certain leave entitlements and where those entitlements are exhausted the employee shall be granted special leave.
- c) Personal information concerning domestic violence is kept confidential by Treasury. We are not able to report on the number of days of domestic violence leave that have been taken in each financial year.
- d) Refer to answer (a)
- e) Refer to answer (c)
- f) Employees are entitled to the following leave accruals:  
Sick Leave: 10 working days in the first year of employment, 15 working days in the subsequent years.  
  
Family and Community Service Leave: 2.5 working days in first year, an additional 2.5 working days in second year, and 1 working day for each subsequent years  
Sick Leave to Care for a Family Member (Personal/Carers Leave): taken out of sick leave balance.
- g) The Employee Assistance Program is a confidential professional counselling and advice service available to all staff to support their health, wellbeing, and job performance. Staff can access the program, which is free of charge, in response to work or personal problems experienced directly or by an immediate member of their family. The program provides emergency on call counselling 24 hours, seven days a week, 365 days a year and all services can be accessed from a 'free call' telephone number.
- h)
  - i. Management training in 2015 covered privacy and confidentiality of employee information for all employees rather than identifying domestic violence as a separate issue.
  - ii. Support is provided through EAP.
- i) Treasury has not provided training at this point in time.
- j) See above.
- k) Refer to (h)(i).

**QUESTION – Sexual harassment and Anti-bullying training and awareness programs**

134. For each department, statutory agency and/or other bodies in the Minister's Portfolio please report:
- a) Date of introduction of sexual harassment and anti-bullying training and awareness programs
  - b) Whether or not all employees and/or contractors have received such training?
  - c) Is this course mandatory for all employees/ contractors?
  - d) How long for each session, how many sessions?
  - e) Who delivers it?
  - f) Is the program tailored to take into consideration specific needs of LGBTQIA, ATSI and CALD or other at risk groups?
  - g) How?

h) What percentage of staff in each agency has undertaken sexual harassment and anti-bullying training and awareness programs?

**ANSWER:**

134. a) Training and awareness programs were introduced on 1 July 2015.
- b) Yes. All employees and contractors receive online training and are made aware of such programs through their induction.
- c) Yes. The training is mandatory.
- d) Online self-paced modules (20 mins) are used for awareness, then the content/scenarios are built into face to face code of conduct modules (2 hour).
- e) Online is delivered by Learning Seat. Face to face is delivered by Treasury's HR team.
- f) The program has not yet been tailored for at risk groups. This will be completed as we review and refresh our training programs.
- g) See response to (f) above.
- h) 97% of employees have completed the training.

**QUESTION – Port of Newcastle**

135. Did the government claim immunity from the "Competition and Consumer Act 2010" in respect of Term Sheets with Newcastle Stevedores Consortium requiring Mayfield Development Corporation Pty Ltd to make the State of New South Wales whole for any cost the State incurred to NSW Ports in respect of future container capacity development at the Port of Newcastle?
136. Was the government subject to the "Competition and Consumer Act 2010" in respect of Term Sheets with Newcastle Stevedores Consortium requiring Mayfield Development Corporation Pty Ltd to make the State of New South Wales whole for any cost the State incurred to NSW Ports in respect of future container capacity development at the Port of Newcastle?
137. Was the Government excluded from the requirements of the Commonwealth Competition and Consumer Act 2010 in respect of Newcastle Port Corporation:
- a) Conducting a public tender in 2010 for a multi-purpose terminal, including a 1-million per year capacity container terminal, at the Port of Newcastle?
- b) Changing its requirements pursuant to its 2010 tender?
- c) Charging Anglo Ports Pty Ltd a fee for container movements at the Port of Newcastle, pursuant to its tender conducted in 2010?
138. On what date did the Government inform the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission about Newcastle Port Corporation charging a fee for container movements at the Port of Newcastle?
139. Was the Government excluded from the requirements of the Commonwealth Competition

and Consumer Act 2010 in respect of charging a fee for container movements at the Port of Newcastle after Newcastle Port Corporation terminated its negotiations with Anglo Ports?

140. On what date did the Government impose a charge on containers at the Port of Newcastle?
141. Does the Government use its charge on containers at the Port of Newcastle to fund compensation payments to NSW Ports in respect of container movements at the Port of Newcastle?
  - a) If not, what is the source of the funds for these payments?
142. When was the Treasurer first made aware of the Port Commitment Port Botany and Port Kembla document?
143. When was the Treasurer first made aware of the "contractual commitments" outlined in the Port Commitment Port Botany and Port Kembla document?
144. The Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight recently stated that cross payments are required to be made between the operator of the Port of Newcastle and the operator of Port Botany and Kembla, does the Treasurer understand these cross payments to be lawful?
  - a) Does the Treasurer accept these payments are of an anti-competitive nature?
145. Why does the Government charge a fee for container movements at the Port of Newcastle?
146. Why did the Government keep secret its charging a fee for container movements at the Port of Newcastle until 10 August 2016?
147. Why does the Government pay NSW Ports compensation in respect of container movements at the Port of Newcastle?
148. How does the Government define the term "container" in respect of charging a fee for container movements at the Port of Newcastle?
149. Does the Government charging a fee for container movements at the Port of Newcastle affect the commercial viability of developing a container terminal?
150. Does the Government claim immunity from the Commonwealth Competition and Consumer Act 2010 in respect of charging a fee for container movements at the Port of Newcastle?
151. Did the Government claim immunity from the Commonwealth Competition and Consumer Act 2010 when it requested Newcastle Stevedores Consortium and Mayfield Development Corporation Pty Ltd to pay a fee for container movements at the Port of Newcastle?
152. Was Newcastle Port Corporation's contract with Anglo Ports, pursuant to its 2010 tender,

subject to the government's "Working With Government Guidelines"?

153. Did the government claim immunity from the Commonwealth Competition and Consumer Act 2010 in respect of its contract with Anglo Ports pursuant to Newcastle Port Corporation's 2010 tender?
154. Does the government support a court determining whether a breach of the Commonwealth Competition and Consumer Act 2010 occurred when the government required Anglo Ports to pay a fee for container movements?
155. When the government instructed Anglo Ports not to build a container terminal, on 30 August 2012 and 26 July 2013, but required payment of a fee for container movements based on a container terminal, did the government terminate the tender because Anglo Ports did not withdraw its proposal?
156. Why did the government advise this Committee on 22 August 2014 that a container terminal at the Port of Newcastle was "uneconomic enterprise contrary to market demand" but fail to advise that it charges a fee for container movements?
157. Why does the government charge a fee for container movements at the Port of Newcastle?
158. Would a container terminal at the Port of Newcastle be "an uneconomic enterprise contrary to market demand" if the government abolished its fee charged for container movements?
159. Can the private operator of the Port of Newcastle develop a container terminal if it wished to do so subject to paying the government's fee charged for container movements above a threshold

**ANSWER:**

- 135-141. I am advised the Government's transaction team engaged extensively with the ACCC from the early stages of all the port transactions regarding the competition and regulatory framework supporting the transactions. No compensation payments have been payable in respect to container movements at the Port of Newcastle.
142. Please refer to the response to question 41.
143. Please refer to the response to question 41.
144. Please refer to the response to question 135.
- 145-149. Please refer to the response to questions 50.
150. Please refer to the response to question 135.
151. Please refer to the response to question 135.
152. I am advised that Newcastle Port Corporation did not conclude a contract with Anglo Ports.

153. Please refer to the response to questions 135 and 152.
154. Please refer to the response to question 152.
155. Please refer to the response to question 152.
156. Please refer to the response to question 50.
157. Please refer to the response to question 47.
158. Please refer to the response to question 47.
159. The Port of Newcastle is not prevented from developing container facilities.

**QUESTION – Illawarra Infrastructure Fund**

160. Can the Minister provide details of how much of the Illawarra Infrastructure Fund has been allocated?
161. Which projects have these funds been spent on?
162. Which projects are still waiting for funds?
163. Why have they not been allocated their funds?
164. When will they have their funds allocated?

**ANSWER:**

160-164. Information regarding the Illawarra Infrastructure Fund is available on the Infrastructure NSW website.

**QUESTION – Flexible Workplaces**

165. Minister, the Premier announced on International Women's Day that the public service would all have access to flexible working arrangements by 2019.
- a) Do you centrally register staff who have flexible work arrangements?
  - b) What numbers of staff within your Department currently have flexible working arrangements?
  - c) Are you aware of any measures that are currently underway to implement this?

**ANSWER:**

165. NSW Government agencies are developing initiatives to implement the NSW Government's policy that 100 per cent of public service jobs will be flexible by 2019 on the basis of 'if not, why not'.

**QUESTION – Office Administration**

166. How many staff are in your ministerial office?
- a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2015-16?

- b) What is the estimated average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office in 2016-17 based on current appointments?
167. How many blackberries/iphones/smart phones are assigned to your staff?
- a) For each phone, how much was each bill in 2015-16?
- b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
- i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?
168. How many iPads or tablets has DPC 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 2015-16?
- b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2015-16?
- i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?
1. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2015-16?
- a) What is the cost of this?
169. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or potplants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2015-16?
- a) If so, what was the cost of these items?
170. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or potplants been purchased for display in your ministerial office in 2015-16?
- a) If so, what was the cost of these items?
171. What was the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals in 2015-16?
- a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?
- b) Who is the subscriber for each of these?
172. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office in 2015-16?
- a) What were the gifts purchased?
- b) Who were they gifted to?
173. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?
- a) What is the monthly cost of this?
174. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?
- a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?
175. What was the total bill for your office in 2015-16 for:
- a) Taxi hire
- b) Limousine hire
- c) Private hire care
- d) Hire car rental
- e) Ridesharing services

176. Were any planes or helicopters chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money in 2015-16?  
a) If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?

**ANSWER:**

166. Ministers' staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website. Refer to:  
[http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers\\_and\\_ministers\\_staff\\_numbers](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers).
167. There were 280 smart phones in use across all Ministers' offices in 2015-16. The total usage cost of these smart phones and other mobile devices (including iPads) was \$452,830, a 21.7% per cent reduction on the 2008-09 expenditure of \$578,691. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund. Repairs are funded by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Ministerial and Correspondence Services.
168. There were 148 iPads in use across all Ministers' offices in 2015-16. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund. Repairs are funded by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Ministerial and Correspondence Services.
1. No
- 169-170. Floral arrangements purchased by the Ministry are managed within the office's budget.
171. The Treasurer's Office subscribes to a modest number of publications, the cost of which is managed within the Office's budget.
172. Gifts are presented to dignitaries during overseas missions and to dignitaries visiting NSW.
173. No.
174. Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, other nominated public office holders and certain former office holders are provided with official cars and drivers. During 2015-16 all costs associated with these vehicles were paid from the relevant office's budget.
175. Expenditure on taxis, hire cars and ride share services across the Ministry in 2015-16 was \$99,463. This compares with 2009-10 expenditure of \$175,776.
176. Expenditure on charter flights for the Ministry totalled \$28,706 in 2015-16. This compares with expenditure in 2009-10 of \$282,000.

**QUESTION – Hospitality**

177. How much did your ministerial office spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2015-16?
178. How much did your Department/agency spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2015-16?

**ANSWER:**

177. Expenditure on hospitality across the Ministry - which includes catering for stakeholder meetings and courtesy calls with visiting dignitaries - totalled \$25,059 in 2015-16.
178. Financial statements, including expenditure on event management is disclosed according to requirements in Treasury's Annual Reports.

**QUESTION – Labour Hire Firms**

179. Do any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms? If yes, please advise in table form for 2015-16:
- The names of the firms utilised
  - The total amount paid to each firm engaged
  - The average tenure period for an employee provided by a labour hire company
  - The longest tenure for an employee provided by a labour hire company
  - The duties conducted by employees engaged through a labour hire company
  - The office locations of employees engaged through a labour hire company
  - The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company

**ANSWER:**

179. Treasury uses Labour Hire firms, in accordance with NSW Public Service policies to cover temporary vacancies as required. There are no central records maintained, with operations authorised to make such arrangements, subject to their overall labour expense cap.

**QUESTION – Media and Public Relations**

180. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
181. What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?
182. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?
183. Have you had media training or speech training?
- If yes, who paid for it?
  - If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount paid in 2015-16?

**ANSWER:**

180. Treasury staff numbers are included in the Annual Report.
181. There are currently no plans to increase the number of media staff undertaking media or public relations activities.
182. The NSW Government purchases all commercial media monitoring centrally through the Department of Premier and Cabinet which delivers significant savings through aggregated

procurement. The total cost of the whole of government service in 2015-16 was \$1,900,000. Compared to \$2,394,973 in 2009-10.

183. No.

#### **QUESTION – Facebook**

184. How much did your ministerial office spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2015-16?

185. How much did your Department/agency spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2015-16?

#### **ANSWER:**

184. No taxpayer money has been spent on the official Gladys Berejiklian Facebook page to date.

185. Nil.

#### **QUESTION – Overseas Trips**

186. Were any of your overseas trips in the last financial year paid for in part or in full by using public money?

a) If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?

187. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?

a) If so, what was the nature of these trips?

b) Who paid for these trips?

#### **ANSWER:**

186-187. Details of overseas travel including costs are published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website.

#### **QUESTION – Department/Agency Travel**

188. What was the total expenditure in 2015-16 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on:

a) Taxi hire

b) Limousine/private car hire

c) Hire car rental

d) Ridesharing services

#### **ANSWER:**

188. All Department travel is in accordance with NSW Treasury and Finance Circular OFS-2014-07. Details are disclosed according to requirements in Treasury's Annual Reports.

<b>QUESTION – Consulting</b>	
189.	How much did the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spend in legal costs in 2015-16?
190.	Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice in 2015-16: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Social media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. And the cost of these services</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) Photography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. And the cost of these services</li> </ul> </li> <li>c) Acting training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. And the cost of these services</li> </ul> </li> <li>d) Ergonomics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. And the cost of these services</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>ANSWER:</b>	
189 – 190.	Financial statements, including legal fees expenditure and expenditure on consultants are disclosed according to requirements in Treasury's Annual Reports.

<b>QUESTION – Department/Agency Staffing</b>	
191.	How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2015-16? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Of these redundancies, how many were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Voluntary</li> <li>ii. Forced</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?</li> </ul>
192.	Have any staff who received a redundancy in the last two years undertaken any paid work or provided any paid services for the agency with which they were formerly employed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) What was the nature of these works/services?</li> <li>b) What was the total cost of these works or services?</li> </ul>
193.	Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?
194.	How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2015-16? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?</li> </ul>
<b>ANSWER:</b>	
191-194.	Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. Redundancy figures across the sector for 2015/16 are anticipated to be in the order of 2,099 – totalling 11,777 Since July 2011. The Labour Expenses Cap introduced in the 2012-13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been

quarantined from this measure.

**QUESTION – Websites Visited**

195. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?  
a) What was the total expenditure in 2015-16 on iTunes?  
i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?
196. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?  
a) What was the total expenditure in 2015-16 on Android?  
i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?

**ANSWER:**

195-196. IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and are guided by NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.

**QUESTION – Websites Visited**

197. What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and received) unique domain names accessed by your Ministerial office this year?
198. What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by your Ministerial office this year?

**ANSWER:**

197-198. Due to the way the Ministers' IT network infrastructure is configured with third party service providers, DPC does not have a single data source showing domain access and utilisation figures.

**QUESTION – Merchant fees**

199. Please provide a list of all transactions where customers need to pay a merchant fee on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency.
200. Please provide the percentage and/or amount of the merchant fees applied to all credit and/or debit card payments/transactions in your Department/agency.
201. What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency in 2015-16?

**ANSWER:**

191-201. All NSW Government agencies are required to impose surcharges to recoup their merchant interchange fees, pursuant to Treasury Circular TC12/13. DPC does not accept payment for goods and services so we do not impose merchant fees on our customers. Treasury does not charge merchant fees.

Treasury staff only use their Pcards for the purchase of goods and services for official business purposes. If particular vendors elect to impose a merchant fee on card

transactions, that is an unavoidable cost of doing business. It would not be possible to determine fees charges to Departmental cards, as these would either be embedded in the individual transaction cost, or if separately disclosed would require each monthly card statement for each user to be reviewed.

**QUESTION – Probity auditor**

202. Has your office or department used a Probity Auditor or Probity Advisors, or similar, in the past five years? If so please list the company and/or individual, the project, the engagement dates, and their total remuneration in tabular format.

**ANSWER:**

202. Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants are disclosed according to requirements in Treasury's Annual Reports.