

Following our Lord Mayor's attendance at the NSW joint standing committee on electoral matters I've been asked to answer some of the questions raised. Please find below answers (in blue) to the questions raised during the hearing.

**Question:**

**The Hon. TREVOR KHAN:** I do not want to be stereotypical in any way but if a large unit development in the centre of Melbourne is occupied by overseas students, does each of the occupiers in those units have a right to vote or only those who appear on the lease document? You obviously know what I am referring to—over occupation.

**Mr DOYLE:** Yes, of course. Absolutely. Can I take that on notice? My view would be that it is only the person on the leased document because they are the one officially paying to occupy the leasable property. The others may apply to get on the roll, but they would have to demonstrate that they are paying rent in an occupiable space. I want to be really precise about that; we will get an answer for you from our governance manager because I am not quite sure. But I believe it was your former owner if you are on the lease document.

**Administration answer:**

For each unit (being a separate occupancy) up to two overseas (non Australian citizens) students could apply to be enrolled. There is no requirement for them to be paying the rent or named on the lease but they must have been resident for at least a month.

**Question:**

**Mr DARYL MAGUIRE:** We have heard evidence from the City of Sydney that maintaining the roll was expensive. Can you indicate the costs for City of Melbourne to maintain the roll and keep it updated?

**Mr DOYLE:** Again, I will take that on notice. I would say that we are not as wealthy as the City of Sydney. No-one is as wealthy as the City of Sydney and the cost of updating the roll has not yet come on to my radar. So I cannot imagine that it is prohibitive. I will find out for you. It is probably an embedded cost rather than a direct cost in terms that it will be people doing it.

**The Hon. Dr PETER PHELPS:** Do you have a dedicated unit within City of Melbourne that is looking at enrolment, that is, businesses and appropriate office bearers of businesses to be enrolled?

**Mr DOYLE:** We do. It sits as a function within our governance section.

**The Hon. Dr PETER PHELPS:** How many people would that be?

**Mr DOYLE:** I am not sure about the answer to that.

**The Hon. Dr PETER PHELPS:** Are we talking about a handful? Twenty?

**Mr DOYLE:** No, it would not be that many. I will take that on notice and find out. I know in some models governance sits within the Lord Mayor's office. It would not be proper if that was the section charged with the authenticity of the roll if it sat within the Lord Mayor's office. It quite properly sits within the CEO's office and it is a part of that. But that would only be some of their function. Obviously, as we come closer to an election, that flexes up a bit as well. It would be difficult to answer your question about costs because I have to take in, for instance, customer service as well and applications and inquiries that come in through there. But we will do our best to give you a figure.

**Administration answer:**

The data used to prepare the Voters Roll is also used for a variety of other Council functions. When collecting and maintaining this data the City of Melbourne is mindful to ensure the data adheres to all electoral legislative requirements. Although it is difficult to precisely segregate the costs of maintaining the data used to prepare the Voters Roll, it is estimated that the Voters Roll adds approx. \$53,000 (2014) per annum to our data maintenance costs.

A new Voters Roll is prepared each Election year and remains current until the next election (4 years). In addition to the above ongoing data maintenance costs, the Council conducts an extensive enrolment process each election which in 2012 cost approx. \$470,000. Included in these costs are the various mail outs and staffing the Election Helpline, which consists of 5 to 6 temporary employees for a period of 9 months to assist with all aspects of the enrolment process.

Note: the \$470,000 does not include time and effort contributed by permanent staff.

**Question:**

**The Hon. TREVOR KHAN:** When looking at those, would you be able to identify the number, in a sense, of adjustments made each year to the roll with regards to non-residents?

**Mr DOYLE:** Yes we could.

**Administration answer:**

As mentioned above, the Voters Roll is prepared once every 4 years and remains in force until the next elections. No adjustments are made to the certified roll between elections, but the property data from which the roll is compiled is continually updated.

**Question:**

**The Hon. TREVOR KHAN:** Perhaps also unrelated, would you be able to tell us whether ASIC charges you a negotiated rate on each company search you undertake to identify the company secretary and the like or whether, in a sense, it is the standard charge that solicitors get charged each time they log on and make an inquiry?

**Mr DOYLE:** It is not the standard charge. I am not sure whether it is a negotiated or licensed rate but, again, I will find that out for you.

**Administration answer:**

The City of Melbourne has an agreement with ASIC and is not able to release any details without their prior approval. We have sought their approval to release the costs and are awaiting their response.

**Question:**

**CHAIR:** You talked about ASIC and companies that are obviously taking up premises. What about non-residential electors? How easy is it for them to get onto the roll? You mentioned the rates roll. Is that something that the unit within your governance unit looks at as well?

**Mr DOYLE:** They do, and we can give you the breakdown figures of all of those different categories. How many residential? How many non-residential? How many businesses? Of those businesses, how many elected to take up the votes themselves and how many were deemed? We can give you a breakdown of all those elements of our electoral roll.

**Administration answer:**

Category	Electors
Absent (Prop) Owners	40,911
Non-Resi (Business) Occs	3,940
Residents	43,784
Corporate Representatives	19,799
	<hr/> 108,434 <hr/>

Corporate Representatives	
Appointed	6,267
Deemed	13,532
	<hr/> 19,799
<hr/>	
Electoral Commission Electors	43,693
City of Melbourne Electors	64,741
	<hr/> 108,434

Please also find below links to both the Census of Land Use and Employment (CLUE) website and Melbourne News site which were both referred to by the Lord Mayor.

<http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/AboutMelbourne/Statistics/CityEconomy/Pages/freereports.aspx>  
<http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/AboutCouncil/Newsletters/Pages/Melbourne.aspx>

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

regards

**Keith Williamson** | Manager Governance Services | Governance Services Branch

City of Melbourne | Town Hall 90-120 Swanston Street Melbourne 3000 | GPO Box 1603 Melbourne 3001

[www.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au) | [www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/whatson](http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/whatson)