



information
and privacy
commission
new south wales

Your reference: D13/16226
Our reference: IPC13/001

5 July 2013

The Hon Catherine Cusack MLC
Chair
Committee on the Ombudsman,
the Police Integrity Commission and the Crime Commission
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Cusack

I refer to the letter of 26 June 2013 from the Director of Committees, Dr Abigail Groves, seeking statistical information from the IPC on financial resources and staffing for the Committee to report on in its annual report to the Parliament on the 2013 General Meetings.

I note the Committee has asked the IPC to complete tables showing resourcing and staffing profiles for the years 2010-11 and 2011-12. As the Committee is aware, the IPC commenced full operations on 1 January 2011, and therefore comparable data for the 2010-11 year is not provided. I attach the requested data for the 2011-12 year.

To assist the Committee with its report, I also provide data for the current financial year and forward projections for 2014-15 and 2015-16. In 2012, the NSW Government initiated sector-wide savings and reform measures. The IPC, along with all NSW government agencies, has been asked to further improve service delivery and meet budgetary targets.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide the Committee with further information about the actions I took as CEO to meet the IPC's labour expense cap while delivering the Parliament's requirements for the IPC.

I initiated a fundamental re-look at how the IPC was operating, and how it needed to reorganise itself while still meeting service delivery targets at a lower cost of operations. An independent review was commissioned which took place in October and November 2012, with significant staff input. Out of that process a new structure was developed that would meet the requirements of both the NSW Parliament and the NSW Government.

The new IPC structure fully integrates the former Office of the Information Commissioner and Privacy NSW into a single body fully supporting both Commissioners. This meets Parliament's requirement that IPC provide:

- consistent information and advice
- coordinated training
- a common point of contact for the public, and
- administrative and operational efficiencies through shared corporate services.

A strategic plan for 2013-2016 has now been published to guide the forward work of the IPC, and this has been provided to you separately.

In order to meet the labour expense cap, the operational review identified the necessary efficiencies to meet savings in current and forward years. This included a voluntary redundancy program designed to reduce our labour-related expenses without a major impact on the core business of the IPC.

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We have also embarked on other saving initiatives and have worked hard to meet these targets. I am please to advise that we are now well within budget overall.

As indicated in the information attached, the IPC's forward budget will require additional reductions in staffing.

My firm view is that 28.6 is the minimum requirement to fulfill our legislative obligations as an accountability agency that also champions citizens' privacy and access to government information rights.

The savings we have made in our operating expenses has allowed the IPC to forecast a surplus in our operating statement over the next 4 years, including 2012-13. The recurrent budget has provided us with sufficient funds to finance the operating expenses, as well as labour related expenses.

I am therefore writing to Treasury to propose the following options to tackle the labour cap predicament we will be facing in the forward years from 2014-15:

1. to allow our labour expense and operating expense to be combined as the assessment criteria in budget compliance; or
2. to increase the labour expense cap limit and at the same time reduce the operating expense budget by the same amount.

I have consulted with the Privacy Commissioner, Dr Elizabeth Coombs, in this matter.

Please contact Meredith Claremont, Executive Director, on phone: [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Deirdre O'Donnell
Information Commissioner

INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSION

	Resources		Resources		Budgeted Resourcing over the next three years			
	2011-12	2011-12	2012-13	Actual (\$) **	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	
	Budget (\$)	Actual (\$)	Budget (\$)	Actual (\$) **	Budget (\$)	Budget (\$)	Budget (\$)	
Staffing expenses (salaries, superannuation, leave etc)	3,930,000	3,345,078	3,788,000	3,793,666	3,605,000	3,560,000	3,533,000	
Operating expenses (leases, insurance, maintenance, travel, printing etc)	1,428,000	1,844,482	1,493,000	992,888	1,585,000	1,534,000	1,535,000	
All other expenses			125,000	134,992	172,000	167,000	179,000	
TOTAL expenses	5,358,000	5,189,560	5,406,000	4,921,546	5,362,000	5,261,000	5,247,000	
Revenue - recurrent appropriations	5,272,000	5,274,200	5,152,000	5,152,000	5,076,000	4,980,000	4,936,000	
Revenue - capital appropriations	366,000	248,300	150,000	167,300	150,000	150,000	150,000	
All other revenue	42,000	188,309	42,000	116,534	147,000	144,000	142,000	
TOTAL revenues	5,680,000	5,710,809	5,344,000	5,435,834	5,373,000	5,274,000	5,228,000	

** figures subject to change depending on final audit

	Staffing profile		Staffing profile		Projected Staffing to meet labour savings targets			
	2011-12	2011-12	2012-13	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	
No. of full-time equivalent staff	32.6	32.6	28.6	28.6	28.6	27.6	26.6	
No. of men	7	7	4	4	4	4	4	
No. of women	26	26	25	25	25	25	25	
No. of people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
No. of people whose first language was not English	6	6	4	4	4	4	4	
No. of people with a disability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
No. of non-executive (administrative) staff	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	
No. of executive (professional) staff	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	
No. of statutory staff	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	

IPC did not exist for the full financial year 2010-11