

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017-18
Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Legal Affairs

EMERGENCY SERVICES : QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Answers to be lodged by: Tuesday 26 September 2017

Questions from the Hon Mark Pearson MLC

Rescuing Domestic Animals

1. Does the Minister intend to direct the department to develop a triage procedure that will identify the process for addressing the safety needs and resources required to evacuate domestic animals during future emergencies so that domestic animals are not at risk of perishing in floods and bushfires?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Department of Primary Industries is the agency responsible for agriculture and animal services under the State's Emergency Management Plan. It has extensive procedures for emergency accommodation and welfare of domestic animals during an emergency. Further details may be found at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au.

-
2. Can the Minister confirm that the refusal to evacuate domestic animals was standard practice during the Cyclone Debbie emergency?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

While it is not the standard practice of NSW SES to refuse the evacuation of domestic animals during an emergency response, decisions not to assist evacuating domestic animals may be made in individual instances where the safety of community members might otherwise be jeopardised.

-
3. During the Cyclone Debbie emergency, what steps, if any, did State Emergency Services take to ensure that when people were provided with emergency accommodation, they were also provided with facilities to house companion animals and thus assist evacuees to ensure their companion animals were not illegally abandoned in the rising flood waters?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

During Cyclone Debbie, provision of emergency animal care was undertaken by Department of Primary Industries (DPI), the agency responsible for agriculture and animal services, as close as possible to evacuation centres or co-located. DPI provided shelter, basic food and water and security for evacuated animals.

4. Does the Department have any policies or procedures in place to ensure evacuees are not placed in the position of having to abandon their animals due to a lack of facilities provided by emergency services during times of natural disaster?

(a) If so, what are they?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Office of Emergency Management's Welfare Services Functional Area Evacuation Centres and Animals Guideline encourages people to take their companion animals with them when they evacuate.

5. Does the Department provide funding for the establishment of companion animal facilities during natural disasters?

(a) If so, how much. If not, why not?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Funding for emergency accommodation and welfare of domestic animals during emergency is covered under the NSW Government's Disaster Assistance Guidelines. DPI, the agency responsible for agriculture and animal services, incurs costs associated with animal emergencies and seeks reimbursement for eligible expenditure through the NSW Office of Emergency Management which manages the Government's \$92m Disaster Relief Account.

6. What planning, if any, does the Department undertake to establish the anticipated needs of owners of companion animals in times of emergencies and natural disasters?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

DPI has extensive plans and arrangements to prepare animal owners before, and for accommodation and welfare of domestic animals during an emergency. This includes the Agriculture and Animal Services Supporting Plan; DPI emergency management policy and procedure; and community engagement undertaken by DPI, emergency service organisations and other animal welfare organisations.

Questions from Mr David Shoebridge MLC

Bullying

7. What steps have you taken to address concerns raised by emergency service workers in the course of the Parliamentary Inquiry into bullying in emergency services?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

NSW emergency services agencies support the inquiry process and see it as a positive opportunity to discuss and assess the work they have done in this important area. Any material submitted to the Inquiry disclosing misconduct will be duly followed up in accordance with relevant policies and legislative obligations.

Fire-resistant panelling

8. What work, if any, have you undertaken as Minister to ascertain the prevalence of insulation panelling (such as that which was implicated in the Grenfell fire in London) on buildings in NSW?

ANSWER:

Since becoming Minister for Emergency Services in January 2017, an inter-agency Fire Safety and External Wall Cladding Taskforce was established. Lead by the Department of

Finance, Services and Innovation, this Taskforce has developed a whole of government action plan to prioritise and address fire safety requirements for residential buildings, including dealing with fire safety risks associated with external wall cladding. Further details may be found at www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au.

9. Has your department issued any guidelines relating to the use of such panelling/cladding?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Fire and Rescue NSW participates in the Government's inter-agency Fire Safety and External Wall Cladding Taskforce. The Taskforce has representatives from the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation, the Data Analytic Centre, the Department of Planning and Environment, Fire and Rescue NSW, the Office of Local Government, Treasury and the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The Taskforce has developed a whole of government action plan to prioritise and address fire safety requirements for residential buildings, including dealing with fire safety risks associated with external wall cladding.

60-70 Bournemouth St, Bundeena

With reference to the Bushfire Safety Authority issued by the Rural Fire Service for the proposed eco- tourist facility at 60-70 Bournemouth St, Bundeena (RFS Reference DA14/3551), can the Minister advise whether

10. The Inner Protection Area of the Asset Protection Zone specified in the Bushfire Safety Authority would satisfy the requirements of the draft 2017 Planning for Bushfire Protection as exhibited?
11. The design of the proposed fire refuge building would satisfy the radiant heat exposure limit required by the draft 2017 Planning for Bushfire Protection as exhibited?
12. The Minister's opinion, the proposed access road through the Royal National Park will provide safe access for evacuation of the proposed eco-tourist facility during a bush fire emergency?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

That this matter is subject to legal proceedings before the NSW Land and Environment Court and I am therefore unable to comment. Further, the draft Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2017 is currently subject to exhibition.

Use of artificial intelligence

13. What current uses of artificial intelligence does the department undertake?

Note: Please include all uses of AI including uses for resource allocation and administrative support, big data analysis, replacement and assistance of experts and researchers, procedural matters, or summarising diverse data – for reference this might include:

- Chatbots for customer service or advice
- Customer management systems
- Scanning legal documents to find relevant case law
- Categorising and searching documents
- Directing petitions efficiently
- Translation
- Document drafting

14. When did the department implement AI technologies and which technologies were these?

15. What planned uses does the department have for artificial intelligence?

16. What is the anticipated timeline for the expansion of existing AI uses or implementation of new technologies?

17. What policy guidelines, if any, guide the exploration and use of artificial intelligence by the department?

18. What research, if any, has the department undertaken regarding the use of AI in Government services?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Emergency services agencies use a range of different technologies to assist operations. New technologies are assessed on an ongoing basis for appropriate use within the agency.

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

NSW SES & RFS

19. Current legislation does not provide NSW SES with an authoritative voice in land use planning on flood plains. Rather, the SES has relied on influence and its advisory capacity. Do you support the NSW SES' proposed legislative review of the State Emergency Service Act 1989 to seek an increased authority with respect to land use planning in flood plains?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The NSW Government supports an increased involvement by emergency management agencies and hazard subject matter experts in Land Use Planning (LUP) processes. The recently published 2017 State Level Emergency Risk Assessment highlights LUP as a top priority in addressing State emergency risks.

20. The number of callouts for SES volunteers in 2015/16 was 37,048 and in 2016/17 was 35,000. Why is the number of SES callouts for 2017/18 forecast at only 26,000?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The NSW SES forecasts Requests for Assistance are based on a 10-year average and trends.

21. Will you increase the budget allocation to upgrade the SES website to ensure it can manage the volume of hits during operational events?

ANSWER:

The NSW Government has allocated a total budget of \$136.6 million in 2017-18 to the NSW SES.

22. Should you be made aware that Rural Fire Service Brigades and NSW SES Units have concerns regarding the increase in power prices, what will you do to ensure these units and brigades have extra funding to manage the payment of increasing power prices?
- (a) Do you support shifting emergency services off the domestic supply market?

ANSWER:

I meet regularly with both Commissioners and I am always happy to consider solutions to any concerns they may raise.

Flood Mitigation

23. How much has been spent on flood mitigation strategies throughout NSW over the past 6 years?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Office of Environment and Heritage is responsible for the State Floodplain Management program. In addition the Office of Emergency Management has allocated \$35.8 million from the Natural Disaster Resilience Program on projects that support flood flood mitigation throughout NSW in the past six years.

24. How much has the NSW Government spent on raising public awareness and educating communities about the importance of emergency preparedness?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Over the past six years the Office of Emergency Management has spent \$6.7 million on projects that raise public awareness and educate communities about the importance of

emergency preparedness for all natural disasters. Other NSW government agencies also support public awareness and community education including NSW SES, NSW RFS, FRNSW and the DPI.

25. What has been the cost to NSW for disaster recovery efforts and relief throughout NSW over the past 6 years?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Financial records indicate that joint NSW Government and Commonwealth Government expenditure on natural disaster relief and recovery efforts throughout NSW between the 2011-12 financial year and the 2016-17 financial year was \$1,470,876,040.36.

These amounts represent only the extraordinary (unbudgeted) relief and recovery expenditure for events that are declared as “natural disasters” under the Australian Government Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Determination (NDRRA). Costs for disaster relief and recovery may also be incurred from the routine operating budgets of NSW Government agencies. The NSW Government also incurs costs for smaller-scale natural disasters that do not meet the criteria for a natural disaster declaration, and are not declared as “natural disasters”.

Fire & Rescue NSW

26. Are Fire & Rescue NSW 4 Wheel Drive Bush Fire Tankers fitted with Crew Protection Systems to protect the firefighters in the event of a burn-over?
- (a) If no, are there any plans to fit Crew Protection Systems into the appliances?
 - (b) If there are future plans to fit these systems, how much will this cost, when will the upgrades commence and when will they be completed?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Every crewed 4 Wheel Drive Bushfire Tanker will have additional crew protection by the end of the 2017-18 financial year.

Flood training

27. How many SES branches have flash flood evacuation plans?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The NSW SES Flood Sub Plans cover all magnitudes of flooding and include references to the management of flash flooding. This includes warning and evacuation arrangements for those communities at risk.

There are also local flood plans with arrangements for communities with an identified risk of flash flooding.

28. How many SES volunteers are trained to use boats in flood water?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

1,654 NSW SES members have undertaken flood boat training.

Medical discharges

29. How many firefighters have been medically discharged in each recurring year from 2011 to 2017?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

FRNSW	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*
# firefighters	77	101	109	97	80	64	40

* as at 8 September 2017.

30. Of the firefighters who have been medically discharged, how many discharges had a psychological component?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

From July 2014 to date, 87 FRNSW firefighters have been medically discharged with psychological injury the primary reason.

Stress Leave

31. How many firefighters are currently on permanent stress leave?
32. How many firefighters have taken stress leave from July 2012 to July 2017?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

There is no specific category of stress leave available under the relevant employment arrangements.

Firefighters

33. How many FTE firefighters were employed in each recurring year from 2011 to 2017?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Staff numbers are found in the agency's annual report.

34. Given that a Victorian Inquiry found a conclusive link between firefighting and cancers, and found certain cancers to be up to five times more likely than in the general population, are you looking to introduce legislation to bring NSW in line with the rest of Australia by introducing automatic, or presumptive, compensation for firefighters affected by cancer?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The State Insurance Regulatory Authority is currently reviewing a proposal for presumptive legislation for employed and volunteer fire fighters that reverses the onus of proof in establishing that a listed cancer has arisen from occupational exposure. The State Insurance Regulatory Authority will examine the best approach to address the issue, including any changes to the legislation that may be required.

Hazard reduction burns

35. What process is implemented to determine the priority areas/regions that require hazard reduction burns?
36. Are there specifically trained individuals in the Rural Fire Service (RFS) who supervise hazard reduction burns?
37. Must these supervisors be in attendance when hazard reduction burns are taking place to ensure the correct policies and procedures are followed?
38. How many of these supervisors are required to be at each hazard reduction burn?
39. How many specifically trained supervisors monitor hazard reduction burns across NSW?
 - a. How many are located in the Hunter region?
40. Is it a requirement for hazard reduction burns to go ahead, these trained supervisors from the RFS must be in attendance?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Local Bush Fire Management Committees determine hazard reduction burn priorities and coordinate a hazard reduction program within their local area. A Rural Fire Brigade Crew Leader or a Prescribed Burn Supervisor (PBS) can supervise hazard reduction burns. In line with NSW RFS Standard Operating Procedures, a prescribed burn shall be under the overall coordination of an Incident Controller. There are 1,099 qualified PBS members in the NSW RFS, including 14 in the Hunter region, and 20,557 NSW RFS Crew Leaders, including 255 in the Hunter region.

RFS Volunteers

41. In the 12 months to 31 August 2017, how many individuals applied to be a volunteer member of the RFS in the Lower Hunter region?
- (a) How many of these applicants were prevented from joining?
 - (b) What were the main reasons for rejection during the 12 month period?
42. What training is provided to applicants during the 6 month probation period?
43. What is the strength of each of the Brigades in the Lower Hunter region?
44. Which Brigades in the Lower Hunter region have accepted new volunteers during this 12 month period?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

In the 12 months to 31 August 2017, the Membership Coordination Unit received 178 volunteer membership applications for individuals applying to join as a volunteer member in the Lower Hunter region. Eight applicants were declined as a result of their criminal history check.

Typically, applicants undertake Safety Induction, Volunteer Induction and Bushfire Fighter training during the six month probationary period.

Brigades in the Lower Hunter region have a total strength of 1,987 and accepted a total of 170 new volunteers in the past 12 months.

In relation to emergency service vehicles

45. How many emergency service vehicles are servicing the Illawarra region?
- (a) What is the average age of these emergency service vehicles?
 - (b) What is the average mileage of these emergency service vehicles?

ANSWER:

I am advised 167 Emergency Service vehicles service the Illawarra region. The average mileage differs between agencies and by vehicle model.

46. How many full time equivalent emergency service employees are servicing the Illawarra region?
- (a) Of these employees, how many are working in front line emergency services positions?
 - (b) Of these employees, how many are employees are employed in administrative, management positions, or positions other than front line response employees?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

There are 432 emergency service personnel servicing the Illawarra region. All emergency service personnel are considered front line staff members as they are able to fulfil operations roles during an emergency.

Newcastle

47. What is the Minister doing to address the poor condition of the Newcastle SES building in Tighes Hill?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Under section 17 of the *State Emergency Service Act 1989*, local councils are responsible for providing suitable storage facilities and office accommodation to support the functions of the Local Controller.

The NSW SES committed funding of \$50,000 in 2016-17 to undertake urgent improvements to the NSW SES Newcastle Unit. The NSW SES has also written to Newcastle City Council in relation to the current facility requesting urgent repairs or replacement to ensure it is fit-for-purpose

48. How many aerial firefighting appliances are located in the Newcastle electorate?
- (a) Are there any plans to increase this number as the number of high rise in the Newcastle CBD increases?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The current two aerial fire fighter appliances meets the meets of Fire & Rescue NSW for this region.

49. Are there any plans to close any more Fire Stations in the Newcastle electorate?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Fire & Rescue NSW are responsible for the operational requirements of their units.

50. I refer to Mr Hamilton's statement, "We have been given a list of 1,041 locations across New South Wales which potentially have cladding located on them." How many of these buildings are located in the Newcastle electorate?

(a) Where are these buildings located?

(b) Has this information been provided to Fire and Rescue NSW crews who are responding to emergency events?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Officers from the Fire & Rescue NSW Fire Safety Branch have conducted initial assessments on potentially clad buildings. Follow-up actions, including information sessions for responding crews, will be based on the outcomes from these initial assessments.

51. How much was raised from the sale of the Hamilton Fire Station?

(a) What will these funds be spent on?

(b) Will they be spent in the Newcastle electorate?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

\$1.96 million was raised. The funds will be spent in accordance with community needs and priorities for organisational resourcing. Hamilton Fire Station was replaced by a new \$4.6 million fire station at Lambton. The new Wallsend Fire Station is under construction and will be completed in early 2018.

52. Has the emergency management plan for the Newcastle 500 been completed?

- (a) If not, why not?
- (b) If not, when will this be completed?
- (c) How will the information from the plan be communicated to Newcastle East residents?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Newcastle 500 Emergency Management Plan is currently being developed by Supercars Australia in consultation with police, local emergency services and the Newcastle City Council. The plan is due for completion in October 2017 and will be tested with a multi-agency desktop exercise on 11 October. The plan will be communicated to the public after that date.

Office Administration

53. How many staff are in your ministerial office?

- (a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2016-17?
- (b) What is the estimated average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office in 2017-18 based on current appointments?

ANSWER:

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

54. How many blackberries/iphones/smart phones are assigned to your staff?
- (a) For each phone, how much was each bill in 2016-17?
 - (b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
 - i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?
55. 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 2016-17?
 - (b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2016-17?
 - i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?

ANSWER:

There were 240 smart phones and 139 iPads allocated across the Ministerial Offices in 2016-17. The total usage cost of these smart phones and other mobile devices (including iPads) was \$269,644, a 53.4% 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, Corporate and Ministerial Services.

56. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?
- (a) What is the cost of this?

ANSWER:

Modest artwork related to my portfolios, both donated and on loan, are displayed in the office.

57. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or potplants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?

(a) If so, what was the cost of these items?

58. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or potplants been purchased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?

(a) If so, what was the cost of these items?

ANSWER:

My Office doesn't hire, lease or purchase flowers or plants for display in my office.

59. What was the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals in 2016-17?

(a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?

i. Who is the subscriber for each of these?

ANSWER:

My office subscribes to a modest number of publications, the cost of which is managed within the Office's budget.

60. What was the total amount your office spent on stationery?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Expenditure on stationery in 2016-17 across the Ministry was \$146,596. This includes the cost of printed stationery (business cards and letterheads).

61. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office in 2016-17?

- (a) What were the gifts purchased?
 - i. Who were they gifted to?

ANSWER:

Gifts are presented to dignitaries during overseas missions and to dignitaries visiting NSW.

62. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?
- (a) What is the monthly cost of this?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Water is purchased including for regional and remote travel and is managed within the office budget.

63. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?
- (a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?
64. What was the total bill for your office in 2016-17 for:
- (a) Taxi hire
 - (b) Limousine hire
 - (c) Private hire care
 - (d) Hire car rental
 - (e) Ridesharing services

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, other nominated public office holders and certain former office holders are provided with official cars and drivers. During 2016-17 all costs associated with these vehicles were paid from the relevant office's budget.

Expenditure on taxis, hire cars and ride share services in 2016-17 across the Ministry

was \$82,771, down from \$99,463 last year. This compares with 2009-10 expenditure of \$175,776.

65. Were any planes or helicopters chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money in 2016-17?

(a) If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Expenditure on charter flights for the Ministry totalled \$6,921 in 2016-17, down from \$28,706 last year. This compares with expenditure in 2009-10 of \$281,567.

Hospitality

66. How much did your ministerial office spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2016-17?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Expenditure on hospitality across the Ministry totalled \$32,021 in 2016-17- which includes catering for stakeholder meetings and courtesy calls with visiting dignitaries.

67. How much did your Department/agency spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2016-17?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Costs are managed within each agency's recurring budget.

Labour Hire Firms

68. Do any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms? If yes, please advise in table form for 2016-17:

- (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

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Justice Cluster 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.

Media and Public Relations

69. 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?

70. 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?

ANSWER:

Staffing numbers and employee related expenses vary across years according to Government priorities and machinery of Government changes.

71. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The NSW Government purchases all commercial media monitoring centrally through the Department of Premier and Cabinet which delivers significant savings through aggregated procurement.

72. By how much has the number of media or public relations advisers employed for each of your portfolio agencies increased since 2011-12 to the current date?
73. By how much has the expenditure on media or public relations advisers employed for each of your portfolio agencies increased since 2011-12 to the current date?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Please see response to Q 69 - 70.

74. Have you had media training or speech training?
- (a) If yes, who paid for it?
- (b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount paid in 2016-17?

ANSWER:

No.

Facebook

75. How much did your ministerial office spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2016-17?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

No taxpayer money has been spent on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts by my ministerial office.

76. How much did your Department/agency spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2016-17?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Where appropriate social media is used by agencies alongside other forms of advertising as a cost effective medium of communication.

Overseas Trips

77. 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?

78. 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:

I am advised:

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

Department/Agency Travel

79. What was the total expenditure in 2016-17 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on:

(a) Taxi hire

(b) Limousine/private car hire

(c) Hire car rental

(d) Ridesharing services

ANSWER:

I am advised:

All departmental travel is undertaken in accordance with relevant NSW Government guidelines and policies and agency budgets.

80. Do any senior executive service employees in your Departments/agencies have a driver that is paid for by the Departments/agencies? If so, what is the number of senior executive service employees that have a driver and which senior executive service employees have a driver?

(a) How much was spent on these drivers in 2016-17?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

A driver is allocated to the Commissioner of Police. This expense is managed within the NSW Police Force annual budget.

Consulting

81. How much did the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spend in legal costs in 2016-17?

(a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?

82. Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice in 2016-17:

(a) Social media

i. And the cost of these services

(b) Photography

i. And the cost of these services

(c) Acting training

i. And the cost of these services

(d) Ergonomics

- i. And the cost of these services

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Financial statements, including legal services expenditure and expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

Department/Agency Staffing

83. What was the number of senior executive service employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?

(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?

84. What was the expenditure on senior executive service employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?

(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Senior executive employee numbers are available in agency annual reports.

85. What was the number of internal legal counsel employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?

(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?

86. What was the expenditure on internal legal counsel employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?

(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?

ANSWER:

Please see response to supplementary questions 69-70.

87. How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2016-17?
- (a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
 - i. Voluntary
 - ii. Forced
 - (b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?

ANSWER:

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. Redundancy figures across the sector for 2016/17 are anticipated to be in the order of 1,222, totalling 12,999 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.

88. 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?
- (a) What was the nature of these works/services?
 - (b) What was the total cost of these works or services?
89. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

All Justice Cluster employees and contractors are engaged in accordance with relevant legislation and associated rules and policies or relevant statutory frameworks.

90. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2016-17?
- (a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

A very small number of staff were dismissed from the Justice Cluster in 2016-17. Staff dismissals are pursuant to sections 68(2) or 69(4) of the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013* or other relevant legislation.

91. What was the total amount your Departments/agencies spent on stationery?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Costs are managed within each agency's recurring budget.

Smart Phone Accounts

92. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?

(a) What was the total expenditure in 2016-17 on iTunes?

i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?

93. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?

(a) What was the total expenditure in 2016-17 on Android?

i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

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

Websites Visited

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

95. What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by your Ministerial office this year?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The configuration of the Ministers' IT network infrastructure by our third party service providers does not allow the determination of such data.

Merchant fees

96. 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.
97. 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.
98. What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency in 2016-17?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

All NSW government agencies are required to impose surcharges to recoup their merchant interchange fees, pursuant to Treasury Circular TC12/13. 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 the transactions and fees charged to departmental cards, as these would either be embedded in individual transaction costs, or if separately disclosed would require each monthly card statement for each user to be reviewed.

Probity Auditor

99. 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:

I am advised:

In accordance with the NSW Procurement Board's Direction (PBD-2013-05), internal mechanisms are in place to ensure that probity considerations are routinely taken into account in its procurement decisions, and the use of external probity advisers and auditors is the exception rather than the rule. The relevant Annual Report includes all consultancies valued at more than \$50,000.
