



29 January 2020

D20/02597

Mr David Shoebridge  
Chair  
Public Accountability Committee  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Shoebridge,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Public Accountability Committee on 12 December 2019 as part of the Committee's inquiry into the budget process for independent oversight bodies and the Parliament of New South Wales.

We refer to the communication from the Committee Secretariat, dated 19 December 2019, concerning post-hearing responses required by 24 January 2019.

### **Corrections**

Please find enclosed our transcript with a small number of corrections marked.

### **Questions taken on notice**

The transcript highlights two questions requiring further answers. Set out below is some further information in this regard:

#### *Ontario Board of Economy*

The Board of Internal Economy for the Ontario Legislature is established by the *Legislative Assembly on Ontario Act 1990*. The Speaker is the non-voting chair of the Board. Section 79 (1) of the Act states:

The Speaker shall present the estimates of the sums of money that will be required to be provided by the Legislature for the purposes of this Act to the Board of Internal Economy who shall review such estimates and make such alterations as it considers proper, and shall thereafter concur on such Estimates.

Section 79 (2) states:

The Speaker shall cause the estimates to be laid before the Assembly.

To add further clarity Section 82 (1) states:

When, because the Legislature is adjourned, prorogued or dissolved or because the urgency of other public business prevents the Legislature from considering estimates or supplementary estimates, money is urgently required for the purposes of this Act before it has been appropriated, the Minister of Finance may, subject to the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, advance the required money for the use of the Speaker upon the written request of the Board of Internal Economy, and such money shall be paid into the Legislative Assembly Fund.<sup>1</sup>

It is clear from Section 79 and 82 of the Act that there is a standing legislative authorisation of the funding process for the Ontario Legislature which stands behind the cultural practice of the Board of Internal Economy.

*Joint Treasury/Parliament review of Parliament's funding*

We confirm that the review is progressing and is due to be completed by the end of February. Enclosed for the information of committee members and the Secretariat is a document which sets out the agreed terms of reference and also includes a number of questions in the form of a survey. We would welcome the input of members of this committee, as a sample of interested Members of the Legislative Council, in response to those questions. (The same document is being provided by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to members of the Legislative Assembly Standing Orders and Procedure Committee. We have also provided a copy of the document to the President, and understand he may circulate the document to members of the Legislative Council Procedure Committee.)

**Additional information**

We take the opportunity to provide further information in relation to one other matter discussed during the hearing.

On page 54, the first contribution by Mr Webb on the first line contains the words "when the national security threat level was increased, we did a review of the level of security here at Parliament House". The word 'we' infers that the staff of the Parliament performed the security review when it was in fact performed by the Anti-Terrorism and Security Group of the

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<sup>1</sup> Legislative Assembly Act 1990 (Ontario)

NSW Police Force. Given the significant change that was made to security arrangements at the Parliament it would be better that the word 'we' is replaced with 'the Anti-Terrorism and Security Group of the NSW Police Force'.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any further assistance with this important inquiry.


Yours sincerely,



David Blunt  
Clerk of the Parliaments



Mark Webb  
Chief Executive



John Gregor  
Director, Financial Services