



**INQUIRY INTO THE APPOINTMENT OF MR JOHN BARILARO AS
SENIOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT COMMISSIONER TO THE
AMERICAS**

**Questions from the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, with the agreement of the
committee**

Mr Tim Reardon

1. Did you meet or talk to Mr Stephen Cartwright prior to participating in a panel interview with him on 30 March 2021?
 1. If so, how and when?
 2. Please set out what was discussed.

2. Did Mr Cartwright contact you, or attempt to contact you, while he was negotiating his total remuneration package with Investment NSW for the Agent-General in London role?
 1. If so, how and when?
 2. Please set out what was discussed.

3. Are you aware of Mr Cartwright invoking your name while he was negotiating his total remuneration package with Investment NSW for the Agent-General in London role?
 1. If so, did Mr Cartwright have your permission to raise your name?

4. Were you briefed on Mr Cartwright's final remuneration package?
 1. If so, what reasons were you given to justify Mr Cartwright's remuneration package?
 2. Did you approve it?
 3. Is there any other information you'd like to provide about Mr Cartwright's remuneration?

5. Did you have any conversations with Michael Pratt, Secretary of the NSW Treasury, about Mr Cartwright's candidacy for the Agent-General role in London prior to participating in a panel interview with him on 30 March 2021?
 1. If so, how and when?
 2. Please set out what was discussed.

6. What reasons were you given for why Mr Cartwright was permitted to apply for the role of Agent-General in London after the Panel had already decided Mr Paul Webster was the preferred candidate?
 1. Who gave you this explanation?
 2. When were you given this explanation?

7. Did you have any conversations with the Premier or any Minister about Mr Cartwright's candidacy for the Agent-General role in London at any time?
 1. If so, with whom, how and when?
 2. Please set out what was discussed.

Frances Arguelles
Principal Council Officer
Upper House Committees
Legislative Council
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Frances,

I refer to the request for a written submission to the NSW Parliament Upper House Committee, dated 26 August 2022. Please find following the response to each question in turn.

Regards, Tim Reardon

September 2022

Responses

The following responses relate to a recruitment process, of which I participated as a panel member. The responses are based on my recollections – I do not have access to documentation as I no longer work in government.

Question 1

- i) No
- ii) Not Applicable

Question 2

No, not that I am aware

- i) Not Applicable
- ii) Not Applicable

Question 3

No

- i) The Chief Executive, Investment NSW as the accountable person undertook negotiations with the candidate.

Question 4

- i) The Chief Executive, Investment NSW briefed me on the remuneration negotiations. The negotiations used guidance from the Statutory and Other Offices Tribunal and broader market rates for similar roles.
- ii) From memory, the Chief Executive, Investment NSW managed the process.
- iii) Nothing further to add to the comments above.

Question 5

- i) The Secretary, NSW Treasury, who was accountable for the Trade Commissioner recruitments up to March 2021, advised me that the candidate was to be considered in the recruitment process. The Secretary, NSW Treasury was the lead for the interview panel and that was a usual course of action to advise the other panel members.
- ii) The Secretary, NSW Treasury advised me that there was another candidate to be considered for interview as the recruitment process was still underway. That again, was a usual course of action to advise other panel members. The Secretary advised that the Minister for Trade had simply referred this candidate to him - as the candidate was interested in the role - and that was the only communication between them on this. The Secretary subsequently put the candidate through the formal recruitment process as per other candidates.

Question 6

- i) That is incorrect. The recruitment process was still underway. In general, the Secretary, NSW Treasury would have simply advised me that there was another candidate to be considered and the interview was subsequently undertaken.
- ii) The Secretary, NSW Treasury advised me of the above. He was the panel convenor and that was a usual course of action. I cannot recall the exact date when I was advised that another candidate was to be considered. Clearly, it would have been prior to the date of interview.

Question 7

- i) As is usual practice, there would have been advice provided to the Premier on the proposed candidate for the role prior to announcement. From memory, the Chief Executive, Investment NSW provided briefs to that effect.
- ii) The advice to the Premier would have included information such as the name and background of the proposed candidate to fill the role.