

**2012 POLICE & EMERGENCY SERVICES, HUNTER BUDGET
ESTIMATES
PART B : SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS**

Questions from the Hon. Robert Borsak MLC

MINISTRY - BUDGET AND STAFFING

1. In Budget Paper 3 at page 2-39, the Policy and Finance Unit in the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services had a budget of \$4.5 million for 2011-12, but had it revised to \$10.7 million, and this year has a further increase in funding to \$10.9 million. Why the need for such an increase and how many extra staff work in the Unit now, compared to two years ago?

2. How many staff are there in the Policy and Finance Unit. How many of them have a background in policing and firearms, and in what disciplines do these staff hold tertiary qualifications?

ANSWER:

1. I am advised :

The Policy and Finance service group revised figure has increased to \$10.729 million from the budget of \$4.538 million due to the internal transfer of Finance staff and one of the grant programs from the Counter Terrorism and Disaster Resilience service group. Additionally there has been a transfer of a grant program from another government agency to the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services.

2. I am advised :

There are 37 staff within the Policy and Finance Division of the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services, with qualifications commensurate with the range of different roles and functions carried out.

FIREARMS REGISTRY

3. What studies were done which informed the previous Government's decision to locate the Firearms Registry at Murwillumbah, and what work has been done since, to determine if it is in the right place and readily accessible to its core users?

ANSWER:

The NSW Police Force has advised the location of the NSW Firearms Registry has not been recently considered by the NSW Police Force.

The relocation of the NSW Firearms Registry to Murwillumbah is a matter for the previous government. Any change to the location of a NSW Police Force unit would be a decision following consultation between the NSW Police Force and Government.

FIREARMS REGISTRY

4. How many people are employed at the Firearms Registry, how many of them hold a firearms licence, and what has been the staff turnover in the Registry in each of the last three years?

ANSWER:

The NSW Police Force has advised me :

The Firearms Registry employs 89 staff. Whether employees of the Firearms Registry hold a firearms licence is a personal matter. Staff turnover at the Registry has been four in 2012, three in 2011 and five in 2010.

FIREARMS REGISTRY

5. What percentage of Permits to Acquire are approved in a timely fashion so as the applicants wait no longer than the prescribed 28 days?

6. By postcode, how many applications for firearm licences are made from the Murwillumbah area, compared to Dubbo, Wagga, Griffith, Tamworth, Cessnock and Parkes?

ANSWER:

5. The NSW Police Force has advised me :

97% of applications for Permits to Acquire were approved within a 28 day period from 1 January 2012 to 30 September 2012. The average approval time over this period was nine days.

6. The NSW Police Force has advised me :

Although information is held on the number of firearms licence holders, as not all applications for firearms licences are successful, the information requested by the Honourable Member is not readily available and its manual extraction would represent an unreasonable diversion of resources within the NSW Police Force, in particular the Firearms Registry.

MINISTRY - CABINET MINUTES

7. I note the Policy and Finance Unit drew up 32 Cabinet minutes in 2011-12, and is forecasting 25 for this year. Are all cabinet minutes drawn up in consultation with the Minister, or does the Unit simply draw up what it thinks the Minister needs and presents it to him? Can you go through the process please?

ANSWER:

I am advised :

Cabinet Minutes are generally prepared to allow for the consideration of changes to, or the introduction of new Government policy. This requires direction from, and extensive consultation with, the Minister and the Minister's staff.

FIREARMS LEGISLATION

8. In relation to the Firearms Amendment – Ammunition Control Bill, was a cost evaluation of the implementation of this Bill done before its introduction, and has one been done since. If so, what are the expected costs, and is this an additional impost on policing resources?

9. Was the increased red tape that will result from the Firearms Amendment (Ammunition Control) Act, considered under this review?

ANSWER:

8. I am advised :

Cost estimates have been prepared for internal planning and budgeting purposes. All costs will be met from within existing budget allocations.

9. I am advised :

The additional impost on licence holders and firearm dealers was considered when the amendments were proposed.

POLICE MEDIA UNIT

10. How many staff are there in the Police media unit, and how does this compare to the media unit in Family and Community Services. How has this number varied over the last four years, and how many of these staff in the Police media unit work on the Eyewatch program on Facebook?

11. What is the budget cost of the Media Unit? How has it changed in the last four years, and how much of this change is attributed to Eyewatch?

ANSWER:

10. The NSW Police Force has advised me the total number of people currently employed in the Police Media Unit is 27.

11. The NSW Police Force has advised me :

The Police Media Unit budget for 2012-13 is \$2,916,229 (including police salaries). This funding supports a range of functions, including:

- Media management at major crime scenes and disasters
 - Proactive communications and marketing projects targeting internal and external stakeholders
 - Operational support to investigations through media liaison and multimedia production
 - Public relations expertise including event management and website management
 - Market research
 - Film and TV liaison
 - Corporate photography
-

POLICE MEDIA UNIT

12. Under our law, a person is presumed innocent until proven guilty. How then does the Commissioner justify inviting the media along to report on arrests or even serving of a warrant to search premises?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force advises it does not invite media to attend arrests. On occasions the NSW Police Force Multimedia Unit will attend and film arrests – all Police Multimedia Unit video material is checked by legal experts to ensure the judicial process is not jeopardised.

Also on occasions police co-operate in the filming of reality-based television programs that may during filming record arrests. Police retain full rights to review and veto all content prior to it going to air.

Media is occasionally invited to film the seizure of exhibits to assist the public understanding of the matter and on these occasions it is ensured that the legal process is not jeopardised.

Where arrests occur in or near public places the presence of media is not able to be controlled by police in such circumstances.

FIREARMS DEALERS

13. How many firearms have been confiscated from licensed firearm dealers in each of the last four years? How many charges were actually laid in regard to these firearms, and how many of these charges were successfully prosecuted in court?

ANSWER:

The NSW Police Force has advised me :

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Firearms Confiscated	2,064	199	3,072	573
Charges Laid	186	36	82	589
Individuals Charged	9	5	9	2
Successful Prosecutions	2	3	9	2
Matters Pending	7	2	0	0

FIREARMS DEALERS

14. What steps does the Commissioner intend to take to make reparations for loss of income and damage to reputation in regard to widely publicised "raids" on licensed firearms dealers, where either no conviction is made, or the case is reduced to unintentional breaches of the mountains of red tape facing dealers?

ANSWER:

The NSW Police Force has advised me that if any individual considers that police have engaged in unjustified action, it is open for them to seek independent legal advice as to any possible avenues of redress.

RED TAPE REDUCTION - FIREARMS

15. One of the achievements noted in the performance report for the Attorney General and Justice Cluster for 2011-12 is the finalisation of a review into reducing police red tape. When will the results of that review be made available, and what recommendations were included that would reduce the red tape attached to the ownership and use of firearms in New South Wales, the licensing and operation of commercial firearms businesses, or the licensing and operation of firing ranges in NSW?

ANSWER:

I am advised :

The NSW Police Force Red Tape Reduction Working Group was charged with finding opportunities to reduce red tape and paperwork for police officers to ensure that they would

spend more time policing and not behind desks doing paperwork. The working group did not canvass firearms regulations.

FIREARMS - SAFE STORAGE INSPECTIONS

16. How many safekeeping inspections of licensed firearms owners have been conducted each year over the last five years?

17. How, and on what database, are these safekeeping inspections recorded?

19. Some firearms owners have reported that they have been inspected several times in the last few years, but that the inspecting officer on subsequent inspections has been unable to locate a record of any previous inspections. Why would police be unable to find a record of previous inspections? What procedures are in place to ensure that police resources are not wasted by repeat inspections of the same premises?

ANSWER:

16. The NSW Police Force has advised me :

The Firearms Registry has provided the following data.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NO. OF INSPECTIONS</u>
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2008	1,221
2009	9,032
2010	41,320
2011	43,028
2012 (to 30 Sept)	40,258

** Data reflects inspections conducted of current firearms licence holders.

17. and 19. The NSW Police Force has advised me :

Safe storage inspections are recorded on a NSW Firearms Registry database. Discrepancies with addresses may occur especially in rural areas, where address details may be limited, for example to a property name rather than a street address. In such circumstances, inspection details may not be automatically updated for such properties. Every endeavour is made to ensure the accuracy of safe storage address locations.

FIREARMS - SAFE STORAGE INSPECTIONS

18. Do licensed firearms owners continue to be provided with a record of the date and result of the safekeeping inspection? If not, why not?

20. What procedure is followed to ensure that errors in the Firearms Registry identified during such inspections are relayed to the Firearms Registry so that the Registry records can be corrected?

21. How old are the extracts from the Firearms Registry used by officers from a LAC when they conduct a safekeeping inspection? How often does the Registry supply LACs with

updated extracts, and what arrangements are in place within LACs to ensure the security of these lists?

ANSWER:

18. The NSW Police Force has advised me a copy of the safe storage inspection certificate is available to a licence holder on request.

20. The NSW Police Force has advised me :

Any variations to data identified by police are disseminated to the Registry and Registry records are updated, usually no longer than 72 hours from the receipt of notification.

21. The NSW Police Force has advised me :

The Firearms Registry is able to download a report listing locations and licence holders requiring an inspection as and when required, with data updated on a weekly basis.

Regarding the security of this data, I refer the Member to my response to a Question Without Notice titled Firearms Register, asked on 16 August 2012 by the Hon Robert Brown MLC, which was published in Hansard on 20 September 2012.

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Questions from Mr David Shoebridge, MLC

POLICE USE OF TASERS

1. Are Tasers currently permitted to be used by NSW Police as a "compliance technique"?
 2. How many regional reviews of Taser use have been conducted?
 3. How many uses of Tasers by officers were found in breach of guidelines as a result of such reviews?
 4. What action, if any, was taken to address these breaches?
-

ANSWER:

1. I am advised :

The NSW Police Force's Standard Operating Procedures on the use of Tasers are available at www.police.nsw.gov.au.

2. The NSW Police Force has advised me :

Each of the six Regional Taser Review Committees conducts reviews each month for all operational Taser deployments.

- 3 -4. The NSW Police Force has advised me :

The majority of detected breaches involved accidental discharge which occurred during the loading and unloading process. Operational Taser use is reviewed as per the Standard Operating Procedures on the use of Tasers, which are available at www.police.nsw.gov.au.

DRUG DOGS

5. What data is collected about dog identifications and searches by police following indications?
6. Does the data currently being collected allow a full assessment of the efficacy of the sniffer dog program?
7. What is considered an acceptable level of instances where dogs indicate the presence of drugs but a search proves the person identified by the dog is not in the possession of any drugs (false positives)?

8. What data is collected to identify dogs or handlers who have particularly high "false positive" rates resulting in searches?

ANSWER:

I am advised :

5. Operations undertaken; number of searches conducted; number of illicit drug detections; and number of admissions of recent drug contact where no drugs were detected.

6. The drug dog program has several objectives beyond detections of drugs, including deterrence of illicit drug use and sale and high visibility policing of drug laws.

7-8. The characterisation 'false positives' is not accepted. Detection dogs detect both the current presence of and recent contact with drugs. See also answer to 6 above.

POLICE OFFICER SUICIDE

9. What records are kept regarding the suicide or attempted suicide of active police officers?

10. What records are kept regarding the suicide or attempted suicide of former police officers?

11. What steps are being taken by the NSW Police Force to address suicide of officers?

ANSWER:

9-11. I am advised :

The NSW Police Force's Self Harm Prevention Advisory Panel is responsible for monitoring suicides and attempted suicides by current and former police officers. The Panel includes the Assistant Commissioners for Human Resources, Education and Training, Professional Standards and Field Operations along with the Commander Workforce Safety.

The Panel is also responsible for researching and developing new programs and services for implementation within the NSW Police Force.

Measures currently in place include:

- Wellcheck, a psychological screening program to reduce the risk of harm before it escalates.
- Selection screening undertaken prior to transfer into high risk occupations.
- Employee Assistance Program, including support following traumatic events.

Following the introduction of reforms to the Police Death and Disability scheme, the Liberals and Nationals Government provided the NSW Police Force with \$15 million over three years to trial and evaluate new injury management initiatives and practices.

The NSW Police Force has implemented a Workforce Improvement Program to improve all aspects of injury prevention and management. Additional funding has seen an increase in injury management advisors and the creation of a dedicated Human Resources support team to intensively assist Commands to manage welfare issues.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS IN POLICE PROPERTIES

12. Of the 460 police properties reported in 2011 as being affected by asbestos and other hazardous materials, how many still have not had work completed to remove hazardous materials?

13. What is the timeframe for completion of the remaining properties?

14. How many families are living in housing which contains asbestos or lead as identified in this report?

15. How many police are working in stations which contain asbestos or lead as identified in this report?

ANSWER:

12-15 : I am advised :

The 2012-13 Budget provides \$16 million this financial year to the NSW Police Force to remediate and manage hazardous materials in its properties.

As previously announced by the Government, this investment is part of a broader allocation of \$61 million over four years to address concerns about materials such as asbestos and lead paint in both police stations and police residences.

This funding includes an investment in the ongoing monitoring of police properties to identify any emerging issues that may need remediation.

This program will ensure that any future problems with hazardous materials will be identified and dealt with quickly.

I am advised by the NSW Police Force that the risk based approach taken in determining remediation works is consistent with the NSW Government Asbestos Blueprint.

All original A1 and A2, which were considered the highest priority sites as set out in the Coffey report have been assessed. To date 45 sites have been remediated.

I am advised the majority of properties did not require remediation as the hazardous materials were in fact stable, in good condition and represented a low risk score.

POLICE WATER CANNON

16. What are the ongoing maintenance costs for the police cannon?

17. What is the operating cost per hour for the water cannon?

18. On how many occasions was the water cannon used in:
- a. 2012 to date?
 - b. 2011?
 - c. 2010?
-

ANSWER:

16. The NSW Police Force has advised me that the average yearly maintenance cost of the police water cannon is \$1,800.

17. The NSW Police Force has advised me that the operating cost of the police water cannon per hour is likely to be nominal, where salary costs are excluded.

18. The NSW Police Force has advised me that during the past three years the water cannon has accompanied Public Order and Riot Squad officers on a number of occasions in support of policing of public order incidents. However, there have been no incidents where the water cannon has been used.

POLICE BOAT NEMESIS

19. What are the ongoing maintenance costs for Nemesis?

20. What is the operating cost per hour for Nemesis?

21. On how many occasions was Nemesis used in:
- a. 2012 to date?
 - b. 2011?
 - c. 2010?
-

ANSWER:

19. The NSW Police Force has advised me \$276,876 per annum.

20. The average cost for the 2011-12 financial year was \$230 per hour (excludes salaries).

- 21.
- a. 12.
 - b. 22.
 - c. 26.

I would remind the Member the Marine Area Command's responsibility extends from all coastal areas of New South Wales to 200 nautical miles out to sea and the Nemesis has a range of 1200 nautical miles and the ability to stay at sea for extended periods searching for lost people and vessels. This range can be more than doubled if the vessel is driven at 10 knots.

As recently as 16 October 2012 the Australian Maritime Safety Authority tasked Nemesis to the search and rescue of a yachtsman who was in need of immediate assistance in excess of 300 nautical miles from the NSW coast. Nemesis, crewed by members of the Marine Area Command, effected the rescue of the yachtsman at a point 320 nautical miles from the NSW coast.

FIREARMS ACT PART 6B

22. Are there any current plans to make changes to Part 6B of the Firearms Act to improve public safety?

ANSWER:

I am advised :

The Government has undertaken to canvas options for the possible reform of section 6B of the Firearms Act 1996 which will be considered by the Firearms Consultative Committee.

SECURITY INDUSTRY

23. When investigating reports of firearms stolen from properties, do the Police investigating each incident check whether the provision of that secure environment in each case had been done by a contractor with a Master Security Industry licence?

a. If not then why not?

24. Can a secure environment for firearms be installed by a contractor without a Master Security Industry licence?

a. If so, under what provision of the Security Industry Act?

b. If not, has any such non-licence holder been prosecuted?

c. If not, has any Master Security Industry licence holder been investigated to see whether their workmanship in general meets the mandatory requirements of the Security Industry Act?

25. Has any Master Security Industry licence holder providing that security environment where firearms have been stolen been prosecuted for failing to meet the mandatory requirements of the Security Industry Act?

ANSWER:

23. The NSW Police Force has advised me all reports of stolen firearms are investigated thoroughly.

24. The NSW Police Force has advised me :

No. Class 1 and Class 2 licensees can only perform security activities while employed by a Master licence holder (if the licensee is self-employed, they must hold a Master licence in addition to their Class 1 and/or Class 2 licence).

a. A Class 2 licence is required to install security equipment as defined by the security legislation. Offence provisions of 'carrying on unauthorised security activities' are found at section 7 of the Security Industry Act 1997.

b. No.

c. There are no requirements within the security industry legislation relating to the workmanship of persons installing security equipment.

25. The NSW Police Force has advised me : No.

POLICE MEDIA UNIT

26. How many people are employed in the Police Media department?

27. What funding is allocated towards to the police media department?

ANSWER:

26. The NSW Police Force has advised me :

The total number of people currently employed in the Police Media Unit is 27.

27. The NSW Police Force has advised me :

The Police Media Unit budget for 2012-13 is \$2,916,229 (including police salaries). This funding supports a range of functions, including:

- Media management at major crime scenes and disasters
 - Proactive communications and marketing projects targeting internal and external stakeholders
 - Operational support to investigations through media liaison and multimedia production
 - Public relations expertise including event management and website management
 - Market research
 - Film and TV liaison
 - Corporate photography
-

POLICE USE OF FACEBOOK

28. How many LACs in NSW have Facebook pages?

29. What is the purpose of having LACs on Facebook?

ANSWER:

28. The NSW Police Force has advised me :

All 80 Local Area Commands in NSW have Facebook pages under the Eyewatch banner.

29. The NSW Police Force has advised me :

Police at Local Area Commands use Facebook to engage with the NSW community. The Facebook Eyewatch pages provide an opportunity for interactive and direct dialogue between police and local community members in regard to crime and suspected offenders as well as providing other important information to the community in a timely fashion. Importantly, police and Neighbourhood Watch groups are able to conduct online meetings via closed sessions on the LAC Facebook Eyewatch pages.

POLICE USE OF FACEBOOK

30. Regarding moderation of the NSW Police Facebook page to remove "inappropriate posts" what does this cover?

ANSWER:

The NSW Police Force has advised me :

The Corporate Communications Unit deletes comments from the Corporate Facebook page that may defame, discriminate, offend or impinge on privacy, as well as comments that are prejudicial, have the potential to jeopardise future judicial proceedings or create significant distress for victims. Comments that attack other Facebook users based on their point of view are also deleted; however, comments are not deleted simply because they are negative or in order to censor negative discussions.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

31. Are there plans in NSW to provide access to a 000 service in NSW through emergency SMS for deaf people?

ANSWER:

I am advised this is a matter for Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy, Federal Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy.

CRIME COMMISSION

32. When will the guidelines for the Crime Commission's criminal asset recovery proceedings be finalised?

33. When will the guidelines for the Crime Commission's criminal asset recovery proceedings be published?

34. Will the guidelines for the Crime Commission's criminal asset recovery proceedings be made public?

a. If so, when?

b. If not, why not?

35. Who was consulted in the formulation of the guidelines for the Crime Commission for Criminal Asset recovery proceedings?

ANSWER:

32 and 35.

I am advised this will be a matter for the NSW Crime Commission Management Committee.

33 and 34. I am advised :

Once the guidelines are developed, consideration will be given to this matter.

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Questions from the Hon. Steve Whan, MLC.

MIDDLE EASTERN CRIME SQUAD

1. Has the Minister received any representations from the Hon John Ajaka MLC requesting that the Middle Eastern Crime Squad be disbanded or renamed to remove any reference to the term "Middle eastern"? If so please provide copies of his representations and your replies?

ANSWER:

I am advised all written representations made to me by the Hon John Ajaka MLC have been responded to appropriately.

As Minister I have no intention of seeking to have police rename the Middle Eastern Crime Squad.

POLICE USE OF TASERS

2. Will you act to implement any recommendations on the use of tasers made by the NSW Coroner following the inquest into the death of Roberto Laudisio Curti? If not, why not?

ANSWER:

I am advised the coronial inquiry recommendations are yet to be finalised.

POLICE USE OF TASERS

3. On 11 October the South Australian Commissioner of Police, Gary Burns, announced that South Australian police will not use a taser in any circumstances where an offender isn't armed. Will this policy be adopted in NSW and if no, why not?

ANSWER:

I am advised :

The NSW Ombudsman has recently released a report titled 'How are Taser weapons used by the NSW Police Force'. The Ombudsman found that the NSW Police Force should be commended for the steps they have taken to ensure that Tasers are used appropriately.

The report makes 46 recommendations that aim to strengthen and improve Police policies, procedures and practices and to ensure public confidence in the use of Tasers is maintained. I am advised that Police are currently preparing a detailed response to these recommendations. The Police response will include careful consideration of the recommendations arising from the coronial inquiry into the death of Mr Roberto Laudisio Curti which are anticipated to be released on 14 November 2012.

POLICE COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS

4. Minister, I refer to the exclusive interview given by the Commissioner to Andrew Clennell of the Daily Telegraph on 7 August 2012 on bail law reform. Do you think it is appropriate for the Commissioner of Police to refer to the Attorney General, the Hon Greg Smith MP, the first law officer of the Crown as a "good worker who knows the law"?

ANSWER:

Public comments made by the Commissioner of Police are a matter for the Commissioner.

GREEN PAPER ON HERITAGE MATTERS

5. Will you and or any of your agencies be making submissions in response to the Government's Planning Green Paper on heritage matters? If not, why not?

ANSWER:

The release of the NSW Government Green Paper - a New Planning System for New South Wales - is one part of developing a new planning system and drafting new legislation to support that system. The Green Paper provided community and industry the opportunity to give feedback on planning policy. The Government has an established process for the development of legislation, which includes comment by government agencies at appropriate times.

6 - 15: POLICE TRANSPORT COMMAND

6. Can you confirm that the authorised strength of the Newcastle Police Transport Command is 27, a. what is the current number of operational FTE police in this unit?
b. If the number is not 27 authorised strength can you please provide the figure?

7. Can you confirm that the authorised strength of Brisbane Waters Police Transport Command is 27, a. what is the current number of operational FTE police in this unit?
b. If the number is not 27 authorised strength can you please provide the figure?

8. Can you confirm that the authorised strength of Ku-ring-gai Police Transport Command is 36, a. what is the current number of operational FTE police in this unit?
b. If the number is not 36 authorised strength can you please provide the figure?

9. Can you confirm that the authorised strength of the Parramatta Police Transport Command is 138, a. what is the current number of operational FTE police in this unit?
b. If the number is not 138 authorised strength can you please provide the figure?
10. Can you confirm that the authorised strength of Central Police Transport Command is 118, a. what is the current number of operational FTE police in this unit?
b. If the number is not 118 authorised strength can you please provide the figure?
11. Can you confirm that the authorised strength of Liverpool Police Transport Command is 105, a. what is the current number of operational FTE police in this unit?
b. If the number is not 105 authorised strength can you please provide the figure?
12. Can you confirm that the authorised strength of Lidcombe Police Transport Command is 36, a. what is the current number of operational FTE police in this unit?
b. If the number is not 36 authorised strength can you please provide the figure?
13. Can you confirm that the authorised strength of Campbelltown Police Transport Command is 27, a. what is the current number of operational FTE police in this unit?
b. If the number is not 27 authorised strength can you please provide the figure?
14. Can you confirm that the authorised strength of Wollongong Police Transport Command is 18, a. what is the current number of operational FTE police in this unit?
b. If the number is not 18 authorised strength can you please provide the figure?
15. Can you confirm that the authorised strength of Hurstville Police Transport Command is 45, a. what is the current number of operational FTE police in this unit?
b. If the number is not 45 authorised strength can you please provide the figure?

ANSWER:

6-15 :

I am unaware of where the Member has sourced the figures quoted, which total 577 officers, as the Police Transport Command has been established with an authorised strength of 301 positions.

Following its establishment, I am advised officers assigned to the Command are no longer included in individual Local Area Command strength figures. Information about police strength figures is available on the NSW Police Force website, www.police.nsw.gov.au.

POLICE TRANSPORT COMMAND

16. The Police website states that as at 24 August 2012 the authorised strength of the Police Transport Command is 301 yet the operational FTE is only 272.5. In the Transport estimates committee on Tuesday 9 October, the Minister for Transport provided the advice that the Police Transport Command was 328 (without stating whether this was authorised strength or operational FTE) Can you please confirm the authorised strength and the operational FTE of the Police Transport Command as at 31 October 2012?

ANSWER:

The Liberals and Nationals Government announced the creation of a standalone Police Transport Command in May 2012.

The Command has been established with an authorised strength of 301 positions, with the Government committing to progressively increasing this to 610 positions by December 2014.

This will be achieved through a real increase to police numbers. Along with the additional 550 authorised strength positions the Government committed to prior to the last election, police numbers will rise to a record authorised strength of 16,665 by August 2015.

Further details on police numbers are available on the NSW Police Force website, at www.police.nsw.gov.au.

POLICE TRANSPORT COMMAND

17. Can you please provide the number of patrols the Police Transport Command has made on:

- a. Buses
- b. Cityrail train services
- c. Ferries
- d. Countrylink train services

18. Can you please provide the number of arrests the Police Transport Command has made on:

- a. Buses
 - b. Cityrail train services
 - c. Ferries
 - d. Countrylink train services
-

ANSWER:

17. I am advised patrols undertaken by officers in the Police Transport Command are based on operational requirements.

18. I am advised that, while an alleged offence may have been committed on one of the modes of public transport listed in the Honourable Member's question, it is not necessarily the case that an arrest will be made at that time. For example, following the commission of an offence on a bus, the alleged offender may be removed from a bus by an officer, and then placed under arrest.

POLICE TRANSPORT COMMAND

19. Will the Police Transport Command be fully operational by the June 2014 deadline?

ANSWER:

I am advised the Police Transport Command became fully operational in May 2012. See also the answer to Question 16 above.

RAIL VANDALISM TASK FORCE

20. Is the Police Railway Vandalism Taskforce no longer operational?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Police Transport Command, established in May 2012 has an operational response to graffiti crime as one of its key priorities. As such, the Rail Vandalism Task Force is no longer operational.

FRONTLINE POLICE

21. Minister, what do you define as Frontline Police?

a. What roles are undertaken by frontline services?

b. What are the roles undertaken non-frontline officers?

c. What considerations have been made of the effectiveness of frontline officers to do their duties if non-frontline staff are taken from the force?

ANSWER:

The Commissioner of Police determines the allocation of police officers and the roles undertaken by those officers.

POLICE STAFFING LEVELS

22. What is the appropriate level of authorised strength?

23. Due to the police reduction numbers will this mean that these frontline police will be required to cover and complete backroom duties?

24. If you have reduced the amount of Police Numbers, the authorised strength levels are low, the required levels of actual police numbers in LACs are down why did you cancel the September intake at the Goulburn Police Academy?

ANSWER:

22 and 23.

The authorised strength of the NSW Police Force is now at a record 16,016. In addition, the Liberals and Nationals Government has committed to increase this to a record authorised strength of 16,665 officers by August 2015, which is 859 positions higher than it was in March 2011.

24. I am advised that no graduating classes have been cancelled.

New Probationary Constables are deployed in May, August and December each year to replace and add to existing police numbers.

POLICE FUNDING

25. Commissioner have you raised any concerns with the Minister for Police and /of the Premier about funding cuts and or extra funding, resources and or staff in any area – LAC?
a. Have these requests been met?

ANSWER:

I am advised :

The total expenses allocation for the NSW Police Force in the 2012-13 State Budget was a record \$3.3 billion. This represented an increase of 3.4 per cent on the 2011-12 allocation, which in turn was 19.3 per cent more than the allocation in 2010-11.

OPERATION RUSHMORE

26. As of the weekend beginning Friday, 28 of September how many arrests were made as of the work conducted by Police through Operation Rushmore?
a. How many of these were in relation to alcohol abuse?
b. How many of these were related to possession of illegal substances?

ANSWER:

I am advised :

Operation Rushmore was a high-visibility policing strategy that operated from Friday 28 September 2012 to Saturday 29 September 2012 in the Sydney CBD entertainment precincts. Thirty five people were arrested over offences relating to alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour. The operation will continue across several weekends throughout summer.

KINGS CROSS

27. How many bus services were made available to patrons in Kings Cross as of Friday 28 of September?
a. What is the cost of these services?

28. How many more security guards have been added to the taxi ranks in the Cross?

a. Has the pre-paid system successfully been trialled?

29. How many pubs and clubs have introduced the linked ID scanners in the Cross?

ANSWER:

27 and 28. This question should be addressed to the Minister for Transport.

29. This question should be addressed to the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing.

KINGS CROSS

30. Has the government estimated the cost of the proposed Sobering Up Centre?

a. What is the monthly and annual cost of the program?

b. Is this a trial program? How long will the program be trialled for?

c. Where will this centre be located?

d. Will be located within the vicinity St Vincent's Hospital?

e. How many trained staff will be required to service this program i.e. doctors and nurses?

f. Will Officers be required to undergo additional training? If so what kind of training?

ANSWER:

The NSW Government continues to work with the NSW Police Force to deliver on the Government's commitment to establish a Sobering Up Centre covering the inner city, including Kings Cross. Full details will be released once a final proposal has been developed.

KINGS CROSS

31. Since the Government's announcement on 18 September to increase security in Kings Cross, has it installed any new CCTV cameras in the Kings Cross district? If not why not?

a. What current working relationships does the Government and NSW police have in place to work with current private CCTV cameras installed by Clubs and Council?

ANSWER:

31. The NSW Police Force does not provide financial support for the introduction or operation of CCTV cameras.

Responsibility for the installation of CCTV cameras in public areas of Kings Cross is held by the City of Sydney Council. The City's Street Safety Cameras assist police to detect and investigate crime.

Following the recent announcement relating to improving safety in Kings Cross through the Joint Plan of Management, police are now located at the control centre in Sydney Town Hall on Friday and Saturday nights to direct and coordinate a timely police response to incidents of crime detected by the CCTV. The monitoring of CCTV remains the responsibility of the Council.

Live feeds from cameras are also able to be sent to Kings Cross Police Station when the need arises. Police continue to work with licenced premises and Councils to access CCTV footage as and when needed.

POLICE BUDGET COMMITTEES

32. Minister within the Police NSW, within each branch are there select committees that deal with budget savings measures?

33. What are the names of these committees?

34. How often do they meet?

35. Who is on these committees?

ANSWER:

32-35. I am advised :

The Commissioner for Police is responsible for the budgetary matters within the NSW Police Force. He is supported in this by the Commissioner's Executive Team, in particular the Deputy Commissioner, Corporate Services but also the Deputy Commissioner, Field Operations and Deputy Commissioner, Specialist Operations.

NSW CRIME COMMISSION

36. What process was conducted to appoint Mr Peter Hastings QC to the head of the NSW Crime Commission?

37. Was he appointed by media release or by departmental due process?

38. Did this decision of his appointment go before cabinet?

ANSWER:

36-38. I am advised :

The position was advertised by the Public Service Commission. A selection panel conducted interviews and made a recommendation to Government. The panel consisted of Mr Graeme Head, Public Service Commissioner (convenor), Her Honour Justice Megan Latham of the Supreme Court and Mr Les Tree, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services. Mr Hastings' nomination for appointment was put forward

by the Government and the formal process for confirming his appointment has now been completed. Mr Hastings commenced his role on 5 November 2012.

RURAL CRIME

39. In 2011, 1744 head of cattle and 28,389 sheep were reported stolen across NSW, costing an estimated \$3.8 million across the state. What is NSW Police doing to combat this epidemic?

40. What is NSW Police to help combat fuel theft from Rural Industries?

ANSWER:

39. and 40. I am advised :

The NSW Police Force currently employs 33 Rural Crime Investigators to provide dedicated policing and investigation of rural crimes, including stock theft. All Rural Crime Investigators have an understanding of primary industries as well as experience with practical stock handling and identification.

There are a range of initiatives in place to address all types of rural crime, including stock theft and fuel theft from Rural Industries. These include attendance at livestock saleyards to undertake compliance operations, regular inspections of abattoirs, saleyards, wool, hide and skin dealers and stock and station agent's offices, as well as providing assistance to primary producers to improve the security of their properties. The Rural Crime Facebook Eyewatch page, launched in October 2011, has achieved well over a million hits and offers rural communities the opportunity to interact with Rural Crime investigators.

EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY REVIEW

41. Are you aware of when the review into the RFS funding model restructure will be completed?

ANSWER:

I am advised the consultation period relating to the Review of the Emergency Services Funding System ended on 31 October 2012. Submissions will be considered and the review completed in due course.

THE HUNTER

42. Why has the Government decided to cut \$1.7 billion out of the NSW education budget? Can you tell us what impact these cuts will have on schools in the Hunter?

ANSWER:

I am advised :

- Over the next four years the total required savings for Education and Communities is estimated to be \$1.7 billion. For further clarification, I would direct the Honourable Member to the fact sheet released called "Savings Measures to Meet our Budget."
 - The regional structure currently in place will be replaced with a new structure.
 - Changes of this nature, changes that affect people's positions are serious matters.
 - The Department will be undertaking this work in accordance with the Government's Managing Excess Employees 2011 Policy and its associated procedures, such as the Agency Change Management Guidelines. The policy and guidelines set out key steps all departments must follow when undertaking a significant realignment of functions and staff.
 - Since 14 September, there have been discussions with Regional Directors, School Education Directors and Principals' Associations about the new model to replace regions. A draft model will shortly be released for feedback from stakeholders.
 - As for the impacts of the \$1.7 billion cuts on the Department, I refer you to the fact sheets released by the Department on 11 September, titled "Savings Measures to Meet our Budget".
-

THE HUNTER

43. Are you aware of how many schools in the Hunter have demountable classrooms?

ANSWER:

As the number of demountable classrooms in schools varies from time to time this question should be directed to the relevant Minister, Hon. Adrian Piccoli MP, Minister for Education.

THE HUNTER

44. I refer you to Hunter River Community School - a special needs school in Maitland.

a. Have you visited this school? Will you commit to visit it?

45. Nukalba Public School in Cessnock – have you visited this school?

ANSWER:

44 – 45. No. I have yet had the opportunity to visit the Hunter River Community School or Nukalba Public School as Minister for the Hunter. If invited I would be delighted to attend.

THE HUNTER

46. The Junction School in Newcastle? Do you know how many demountables they have?

47. Has the Government been in contact with the school to tell them when their demountables will be replaced?

ANSWER:

46. No. Although I have yet had the opportunity to visit The Junction School as Minister for the Hunter I am aware of the number of demountable classrooms they have.

47. I am advised the Department of Education is constantly in contact with the school with regard to Asset Planning. Further information relating to this matter should be directed to the relevant Minister, the Hon. Adrian Piccoli MP, Minister for Education.

THE HUNTER

48. Earlier this year, four Hunter people died in less than a month waiting for ambulances to arrive because the vehicles were detained at John Hunter Hospital. It was reported on the front page Newcastle Herald on Friday, July 27.

a. Did the Government investigate these incidents?

b. As Minister for the Hunter, did you make it your business to take a special interest in these investigations?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Ambulance Service has reviewed each of the reported incidents.

The reviews found that in all instances the closest available ambulance was dispatched. Due to the nature of an emergency service, the Ambulance Service at times experiences surges in demand, which occurred on these occasions.

The Ambulance Service and the Hunter New England Local Health District are continually looking at better ways to manage emergency health services in the area.

The Minister for Health asked the Director General to see what else could be done to help get ambulances back on the road quicker. The Director General has advised that since that time:

- 24 hours a day seven days a week, a Local Health District Executive will be responsible for patient access - making sure that on the ground, local hospital and ambulance staff work closely together in the interests of better patient care.
- Meeting targets for the time it takes to transfer care from the Ambulance Service to public hospitals will be a priority for Districts with performance reviewed closely by the Ministry.

These matters are being considered in detail as part of the wider strategic review of Ambulance Services which is currently being finalised.

B: I consult with my Ministerial colleagues on many matters relating to the Hunter.

THE HUNTER

49. As Minister for The Hunter do you have:

a. An office in The Hunter?

If so where the office is located, which person or business owns the premises, what is the floor space, what is the annual rent, what is the staffing of the office and how frequently, if ever, do you work out of that office?

b. Dedicated staff to deal with this portfolio responsibility?

If so, how many staff are there and what is their annual remuneration and in which office are they located?

ANSWER:

As Minister for Police and Emergency Services and Minister for the Hunter, my Ministerial office is located at Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney and Governor Macquarie Tower, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney.

When required I am able to make use of office facilities at the office of NSW Department of Premier & Cabinet, Hunter Region at 26 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle. However, on most occasions I prefer to meet organisations and bodies at their offices.

All of my staff deal with matters relating to the Hunter on an as needed basis from my Ministerial office. Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers.

THE HUNTER

50. How many times in the last twelve months have you visited the Hunter in your capacity as Minister for The Hunter.

51. With whom did you meet and what was the purpose of the meetings?

ANSWER:

50 and 51. Since becoming Minister for the Hunter I have continued to regularly visit the Hunter. As the Minister for the Hunter I, along with members of my staff, meet regularly with residents and stakeholders from many organisations within the Hunter who are working to make the Hunter the best regional centre in NSW. That is why my office and I work extremely hard to accommodate meeting requests from individuals, community organisations, local and international businesses in the region.

I am also pleased to work closely with Hunter State Members of Parliament on the issues and challenges facing the region.

Since becoming Minister I have met with a range of organisations and groups including:

- Spending time with charity organisations and volunteers such as at Raymond Terrace Men's Shed, Salvation Army Access House and Northcott Disability Services.

- Talking with business leaders involved with groups such as the Hunter Valley Research Foundation, Kurri Kurri District Business Chamber, Australian Industry Group, UDIA, Property Council of Australia Hunter Chapter, Hunter Development Corporation and the Hunter Business Chamber.
 - Attending community meetings including Community Cabinet in Newcastle.
 - Supporting our police and emergency service personnel at the Raymond Terrace Police Station opening, the graduation of participants in the IPROWD Maitland program, the Newcastle Police Sea of Blue March and the handover of a new vessel to the Newcastle SES.
 - I have also visited students, teachers and parents at schools such as Stockton Public School and Valentine Public School.
-

THE HUNTER

52. Were you accompanied by any family members, staff or friends during those visits? If so who accompanied you on each trip and what was the cost to the taxpayer of this?

ANSWER:

Where required members of my staff travel to the Hunter to attend meetings and events. Where appropriate travel costs are reimbursed through the Ministerial Office budget.

If invited and appropriate, a member of my family or a friend may occasionally accompany me to events.

THE HUNTER

53. How many representations have you made to other Ministers in your capacity as the Minister for The Hunter and what was the nature of those representations?

ANSWER:

Matters relating to issues in the Hunter raised with me are regularly referred to my ministerial colleagues where their portfolio agencies are leading the NSW Government response to those issues.

MINISTERIAL OFFICE

54. How many blackberries are assigned to your staff?

55. For each phone, how much was each bill in the 2011/12 financial year?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

54. In 2011/12, 179 phones were assigned to the Premier's and Ministers' offices.

55. The total expenditure on mobile phones by the Premier's office and Ministers' offices as represented in the Department's financial system is set out in the table below. Please note that this expenditure may include mobile phone purchase costs as the financial system does not separate the purchase costs and mobile usage charges.

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Premier's Office	\$103,152	\$76,457	\$68,475	\$27,570
Ministers' Offices	\$475,539	\$358,396	\$120,285	\$169,655
TOTAL	\$578,691	\$434,854	\$188,761	\$197,226

Note. 2010-11 figures are a combination of 9 months of Keneally Government and 3 months of O'Farrell Government.

MINISTERIAL OFFICE

56. How many have phones have been lost in your office?

57. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

56. For Premier's office and Ministers' offices, the number of phones lost was:

	2011/12
Premier	1
Ministers	5
Total	6

57. The cost is the normal contract price and this cost is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

MINISTERIAL OFFICE

58. How many iPads does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

59. How many iPads have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

58. For Premier's office and Ministers' offices the number of iPads issued was as follows.

	2011/12
Premier	10
Ministers	43
Total	53

59. iPads are supplied by the Department of Premier and Cabinet and have not been purchased by Ministers' offices.

MINISTERIAL OFFICE

60. How many iPhones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

61. How many iPhones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

62. How many iPhones have been lost in your office?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

60. In 2011/12, 179 phones were assigned to the Premier's and Ministers' offices.

61. iPhones are supplied by the Department of Premier and Cabinet and have not been purchased by Ministers' offices.

62. For Premier's office and Ministers' offices, the number of phones lost was:

	2011/12
Premier	1

Ministers	5
Total	6

MINISTERIAL OFFICE

63. How many iPads have been lost in your office?

64. What is the cost of replacing those phones or iPads?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

63. For Premier's office and Ministers' offices, the number of iPads lost or stolen was as follows:

	2011/12
Premier	1
Ministers	0
Total	1

64. The cost is the normal contract price and this cost is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

MEDIA/PR ADVISERS

65. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?

ANSWER:

I am advised :

Ministry for Police and Emergency Services (MPES): Nil.

NSW Police Force (NSWPF) : The NSW Police Force advises there are 39 positions which encompass providing media or public relations advice. Of these one position is titled Executive Media Adviser.

Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW) : Five.

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) : Four.

NSW State Emergency Service (NSW SES) : Three.

NSW Crime Commission (NSWCC): Nil.

MEDIA/PR ADVISERS

66. What is the forecast for 2012-13 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

ANSWER:

I am advised :

MPES: Nil

NSWCC : Nil

NSWPF : The NSW Police Force has no plans to increase the authorised strength for media related staff. The forecast 2012-13 staffing cost is \$3,891,769 (excluding a vacant media related position in the Public Affairs Branch). It should be noted that of this cost \$189,791 is intended to be recouped through filming on a user pays basis.

FRNSW : Five, at a cost of \$474,709.

NSW RFS : Four, at a cost of \$367,230 (excluding allowances).

NSW SES : Three, at a cost of \$259,218.

MINISTERIAL OFFICE

67. Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money?

68. If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?

ANSWER:

67 and 68. Information regarding Ministerial travel is available on the relevant Minister's appropriate agency website, in accordance with Ministerial Memorandum M2009-10 "Release of Overseas Travel Information".

MINISTERIAL OFFICE

69. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?

70. What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?

71. What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?

ANSWER:

69 – 71: Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers.

MINISTERIAL OFFICE

72. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2012-13?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The total budget allocation for the Premier's and Ministers' offices in 2012-13 is \$40,103,650, with \$5,744,883 allocated to the Premier's office and \$34,358,767 to the Ministers' offices.

MINISTERIAL OFFICE

73. Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April, 2011?

74. If so, could you give details of contracted costs?

ANSWER:

73 and 74. I am advised:

Information on the assets balances for leasehold improvements are available in the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report.

MINISTERIAL OFFICE

75. What is your Ministerial office budget for 2012/13?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The budget allocations for the Premier's office and Ministers' offices are as follows:

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Premier	\$7,002,312	\$8,500,000	\$9,075,038	\$5,309,465	\$5,744,83
Ministers	\$39,673,567	\$40,334,000	\$40,978,962	\$31,516,017	\$34,358,767
TOTAL	\$46,675,879	\$48,834,000	\$50,054,000	\$36,825,482	\$40,103,605

Note. 2010-11 figures are a combination of 9 months of Keneally Government and 3 months of O'Farrell Government.

MINISTERIAL OFFICE

76. How many political advisors are in your office?

77. How many administration staff?

ANSWER:

76 – 77. Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers.

MINISTERIAL SUPPORT

78. How many Department Liaison Officers are assigned to your office?

79. How many staff in the Department are assigned to Ministerial support duties?

ANSWER:

78. I am advised :

Number of Departmental Liaison Officers (DLOs)

	Number of DLOs As at 05/09/2012
Premier	1
Ministers	57
TOTAL	58

79. The Premier and Ministers are provided with road transport services, with Ministerial Drivers assigned for this purpose.

MINISTERIAL OFFICE

80. Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office?

81. If so, in what capacities?

82. How much did your Ministerial office spend on contractors or consultants?

ANSWER:

80 - 82. I am advised:

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

MINISTERIAL OFFICE

83. How much did your Ministerial office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge in the 2011/12 financial year?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Taxi expenditure by the Premier's office and Ministers' offices as represented in the Department's financial system is represented in the table below.

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Premier	\$26,418	\$32,525	\$27,600	\$15,485
Ministers	\$133,697	\$143,251	\$32,678	\$80,609
TOTAL	\$160,155	\$175,776	\$60,277	\$96,094

Note. 2010-11 figures are a combination of 9 months of Keneally Government and 3 months of O'Farrell Government.

PORTFOLIO AGENCY RESTRUCTURE

84. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?

85. How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?

86. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?

ANSWER:

84. Yes.

85 - 86. Agencies undertake internal reviews of their structures to ensure functions and priorities align with the changing needs of Government. This work involves reviewing structures in various parts of the agency to achieve greater alignment with the Government's reform agenda and recommendations of reports such as the Commission of Audit.

VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCIES

87. How many voluntary redundancies were offered in your Departments since April 2011?

88. How many voluntary redundancies were accepted from employees in your Departments since April 2011?

89. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2012/13?

ANSWER:

87. to 89.

As outlined in the 2012-13 budget, the Government's 2011-12 program of voluntary redundancies remains on track to reach its target of 5,000 positions.

A labour expense cap has also been introduced as a new savings measure across the public sector with the target of a 1.2 per cent per annum reduction in labour costs growth.

Directors General will be given as much flexibility as possible to achieve the savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. If it was solely achieved through headcount this would equate to up to 10,000 jobs over four years.

Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

DEPARTMENTAL EXPENSES

90. How much did your Department(s) spend on catering in 2011/12?

ANSWER:

90. I am advised :

MPES: \$16,712.

NSWPF : \$2,877,465. It should be noted that this figure includes catering at the NSW Police Academy and at police operations.

NSWCC : \$9,444.

FRNSW : \$264,722.

NSW RFS : The NSW Rural Fire Service does not have a specific budget solely for catering.

NSW SES : The NSW SES spent approximately \$200,000.

DEPARTMENTAL EXPENSES

91. How much did your Department(s) spend on stationery in 2011/12?

ANSWER:

91. I am advised :

MPES: \$55,852.

NSWPF : \$1,382,083.

NSWCC : \$48,387.

FRNSW : \$461,583.

NSW RFS : \$282,386.

NSW SES : \$77,786.39.

DEPARTMENTAL EXPENSES

92. What is your Department's catering budget?

ANSWER:

92. I am advised :

MPES: The Ministry does not have a discrete catering budget.

NSWPF : \$2,949,161 for 2012/13. It should be noted that this figure includes catering at the NSW Police Academy and at police operations.

NSWCC : The NSWCC does not have a discrete catering budget.

FRNSW : The FRNSW does not have a discrete catering budget.

NSW RFS : The NSW Rural Fire Service does not have a discrete catering budget.

NSW SES : The NSW SES does not have a designated catering budget.

DEPARTMENTAL EXPENSES

93. What is your Department's stationery budget?

ANSWER:

93. I am advised :

MPES: \$30,000 for 2012/13.

NSWPF : \$1,342,278.

NSWCC : The NSWCC does not have a discrete stationery budget.

FRNSW : \$449,650 for 2012/13.

NSW RFS : \$268,800 for 2012-13.

NSW SES : \$75,523 for 2012/13.

AGENCY CORPORATE BRANDING

94. Since April 2011 have any of the agencies in your Department(s) changed their branding?

95. If so, how much was spent on rebranding the agency?

ANSWER:

94–95. I am advised :

The State Emergency Service (SES) has now incorporated NSW in front of SES on all corporate branding (NSW SES). A consultant was engaged to review and update the NSW SES Branding Guidelines subsequent to the decision to change to NSW SES.

The NSW Police Force added a logo to represent the 150th Anniversary of the NSW Police Force to the official NSW Police Force logo to produce a dual logo for use as appropriate. This co-branded logo was produced and managed in-house by the Public Affairs Branch at no cost to the NSW Police Force.

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE

96. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your Department(s)?

97. How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days?

ANSWER:

96-97.

All six agencies in the Police and Emergency Services portfolio have recommended time frames for completing responses to correspondence from Ministers, Members of Parliament and members of the public from the date of receipt of the correspondence.

However, it is not always possible to comply with this timeframe for any number of reasons including: the nature and complexity of the matter; stakeholder consultation; or further information required from other Departments and sources.

PAYMENT OF SUPPLIERS

98. In 2011/12 how many invoices has your Department(s) failed to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?

99. As a result of late payment, how much penalty interest has been paid to contractors since 1 January 2011?

100. How many invoices have been outstanding for longer than 60 days?

ANSWER:

98-100. I am advised that these details can be found in each agency's Annual Report.

GRANTS

101. Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations?

If yes,

- a. What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?
 - b. What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation including goods and services tax?
 - c. On what date was the funding advanced?
 - d. What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?
 - e. Was any funding withheld or returned?
 - f. If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?
 - g. What is the indexation rate applied to non-recurrent grant funds in 2011/2012?
 - h. What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?
-

ANSWER:

I am advised that these details can be found in each agency's Annual Report.

CONTRACTORS

102. How many contractors has your Department(s) retained since 1 July 2012 and at what cost?

ANSWER:

I am advised that these details can be found in each agency's Annual Report.

MPES : One, at a cost of \$1,907.

NSWPF : Approximately 171, at a cost of approximately \$1.97m (as at 31 October 2012).

NSWCC : Nil.

FRNSW : 96, at a cost of \$3,360,010.09.

NSW RFS : 42, at a cost of \$810,240 (as at 30 September 2012).

NSW SES : 5, at a cost of \$28,575.

ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT

103. What is the current level of Aboriginal employment within your Department(s)?

104. How has that changed since 1 July 2011?

ANSWER:

103-104. I am advised that these details can be found in each agency's Annual Report.

CHARTER FLIGHTS

105. Since 1 July 2011, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your Department(s)?

ANSWER:

105. I am advised :

MPES : Nil.

NSWPF : the total year to date cost is \$31,622.

NSWCC : Nil.

FRNSW : Nil.

NSW RFS : In the period 1 July 2011 to 23 October 2012, the NSW Rural Fire Service spent \$231,754.17 on flights transporting Service members to Section 44 bush fire emergencies, other major fire activity, and in support of the NSW State Emergency Service during flood activity.

NSW SES : Nil.

AUDITS AND REVIEWS

106. In relation to feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews:

Is your department currently undertaking any feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews? If so; then;

- a. What are the terms of reference or details of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - b. Who is conducting the study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - c. Was each study, audit, taskforce or review was publically advertised seeking expression of interest or competitive tenders?
 - d. Is there a contract in place detailing terms of engagement for the study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - e. What is the timeline of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - f. What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?
-

ANSWER:

As with previous NSW Governments, the Government undertakes feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews to inform government decision making. A number of feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews are being undertaken across the NSW Government.

CONSULTANTS

107. Have any agencies within your Department(s) engaged consultants in the 2011/12 financial year?

108. If yes, which companies were engaged for consultancy services in the 2011/12 financial year?

109. For what purpose has your Department engaged consultants?

110. How much have your agencies spent on consultants in the 2011/12 financial year?

111. What is your Department budget for consultants in the 2012/13 financial year?

ANSWER:

107-111. I am advised that these details can be found in each agency's Annual Report.

SPONSORSHIPS

112. Have any agencies within your Departments sponsored any organisations or events in the 2011/12 financial year?

113. If yes, which organisations and events were sponsored in the 2011/12 financial year?

114. How much did your agencies within your Departments spend on sponsoring organisations and events in the 2011/12 financial year?

115. What is your Department budget for sponsorship in the 2012/13 financial year?

ANSWER:

112 – 114. I am advised :

MPES : No.

NSWPF : No. The current NSW Police Force sponsorship policy prohibits the organisation from sponsoring or endorsing products or services from an external person or organisation.

NSWCC: No.

FRNSW : No.

NSW RFS : Yes. \$16,800. The NSW RFS sponsored the Police Legacy Child Safety Handbook 2012 by way of paid placement of fire safety material in the Handbook, delivered to schools across NSW. The RFS also contributed a sponsorship towards the 2011 Nature Conservation Council Conference (The NCC has had a legislated role in bush fire management).

NSW SES : Yes. \$1,000. The NSW SES was a sponsor of the Mental Health Association NSW conference. NSW SES members conducted presentations at the conference in the area of critical incident counselling services.

115. I am advised:

All six agencies in the Police and Emergency Services portfolio advised nil.

MINISTER AND PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY

116. Has the Minister been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Minister? If so, then;

a. Who conducted the training?

b. When was it conducted?

c. Where was it conducted what were the costs of the training?

d. Who paid for the training?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Department of Premier and Cabinet's financial system does not show any record of speech, voice or media training for the Premier or any other Minister or Parliamentary Secretary.

MINISTER AND PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY

117. Can you please list all travel related costs for your Parliamentary Secretary incurred in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2011

- a. kilometres travelled
 - b. accommodation,
 - c. air fares
 - d. meals/entertaining?
-

ANSWER:

117.

I am advised:

Travel related costs* for the Premier's and Ministers' Parliamentary Secretaries was as follows:

	2011-12
Premier's Parliamentary Secretaries	0
Ministers' Parliamentary Secretaries	\$19,609
TOTAL	\$19,609

*Flights, accommodation and hire car expenses as detailed in travel contractor report.

- a. Information not available
 - b. The total cost of accommodation for travel by Ministers' Parliamentary Secretaries during 2011/12 was \$1,925.
 - c. The total cost of flights for Ministers' Parliamentary Secretaries during 2011/12 was \$17,477.
 - d. Information not available
-

MINISTER AND PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY

118. Can you please provide details of the following activities undertaken by your Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2011;

- a. meetings attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?
- b. functions attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?

119. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?

- a. Are these meetings documented?
- b. Who attends these meetings?

120. Who provides instructions and direction to your Parliamentary Secretary, you or your Chief of Staff?

ANSWER:

118. – 120.

Parliamentary Secretaries provide assistance to the Premier and other Ministers, including signing correspondence; receiving deputations; undertaking special tasks; officiating at functions; and relieving the Premier and Ministers of some of their duties. The duties to be performed are those allocated by the Minister, or which have the Minister's endorsement.

MINISTER AND PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY

121. Has the Parliamentary Secretary been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Parliamentary Secretary? If so, then;

- a. Who conducted the training?
 - b. When was it conducted?
 - c. Where was it conducted what were the costs of the training?
 - d. Who paid for the training?
-

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Department of Premier and Cabinet's financial system does not show any record of speech, voice or media training for the Premier or any other Minister or Parliamentary Secretary.
