



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2019-2020 RELATING TO THE
PORTFOLIOS OF JOBS, INVESTMENT, TOURISM AND
WESTERN SYDNEY AND THE LEGISLATURE
Supplementary Questions**

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

THE LEGISLATURE

Hearing: Monday, 16 March 2020

Answers due by: Monday, 13 April 2020

Budget Estimates secretariat

Phone 9230 2303

BudgetEstimates@parliament.nsw.gov.au

THE LEGISLATURE

Questions from the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition)

Accessibility / Disability

1. When is the DPS Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) expected to be completed?
2. Why did DPS not create a DIAP following the enactment of the Disability Inclusion Act (2015)?
3. Will the DPS DIAP include provisions for a disability advisory body which includes staff and/or elected members with disability?
4. Is there any current consultative mechanism for staff or elected members with disability to advise or be consulted on accessibility measures in NSW Parliament and electorate offices?
5. Has the department consulted with any peak bodies or organisations with a specialisation for low vision and blindness regarding the lighting in NSW Parliament House?
6. There have been a number of accessibility upgrades and improvements completed by DPS over the last four years, what percentage involved consultation with staff or elected members with disability?
7. What is the timeframe from construction to completion for the following projects:
 - (a) Installation of an accessible shower and toilet in the gym area
 - (b) Construction of an external access lift from the Macquarie Street forecourt to the Rum Hospital front veranda as well as access to both Chambers public galleries
 - (c) Installation of a permanent ramp between the Wentworth Room and Legislative Assembly Chamber
 - (d) Replacement of the lift allowing wheelchair access to the Speaker's Garden
8. What plans are in place to improve staff knowledge of information accessibility, including easy read and low vision accessibility?
9. Has the department included consultation with people with intellectual disability and low vision or blindness as part of the Digital Parliament major capital project proposal?
 - (a) If so, at what point/s of the process is that consultation proposed to occur?
10. What percentage of departmental staff have disability?

11. Please provide the number of reasonable adjustment requests that have been approved, partially approved and rejected for workers with disability or injury for the years:
 - (a) 2018-19
 - (b) 2017-18
 - (c) 2016-17
 - (d) 2015-16
12. Please provide a list of the 3 most common types of reasonable adjustments staff have requested from 2018-19.
13. What initiatives are currently proposed or in place to attract people with disability to work in the department?
14. What initiatives are currently proposed or in place to support people with disability who work in the department?

Funding of the House

15. What progress has been made to establish a cross party working group that will discuss and advocate for better funding for The Parliament?
16. Have you sought additional funding to adequately resource the Parliament?
17. Have you costed what it would take to adequately fund the Parliament?
 - (a) What amount of money do we need as a permanent recurring amount each year to achieve this?

DPS Staffing

18. Why has it been deemed necessary to advertise for a PR assistant (as advertised on the iworkforNSW website, Communications and Media Advisor job ID 00007NBZ)?
19. At the last Estimates (hearing date 10 September 2019), we were told that in order to find savings of some \$870,000 this year at DPS, there would be cuts to Library hours, the casualization of cleaning staff, President Ajaka said “everything is on the table”. Now we learn there is almost 15% of that amount available to provide a PR assistant to the DPS CEO. Why are these funds not directed to staff such as cleaners instead of a PR assistant?
20. The proposed PR Assistant will be paid up to \$107,541 pa. This is more than what a Secretary/Research Assistant or a Senior Electorate Officer working for an MP or MLC. Is the

media and crisis communications workload greater or more complex than the workload for Members of Parliament?

21. If there is a need to pay a PR assistant to the DPS CEO at Clerk Grade 7/8, why are all MPs and MLCs staff not paid against the Clerk Grade system?
22. How many unfilled vacancies exist in the Library?
 - (a) How long have they been vacant?
 - (b) Why?
23. Will the funding be provided to fill them?
24. Will these roles be filled in advance of the PR role?

MoPS Staffing

25. Do the employment arrangements for Members of Parliament Staff comply with the National Employment Standards?
26. Are you aware that Members' staff often work up to 12 or 15 hours a day on sitting days?
 - (a) Does DPS pay members staff for these extra hours?
 - (b) How many hours of overtime does the All Incidences of Employment Allowance cover?

Ceiling works

27. With the delay of the completion of works of the ceiling in the Strangers Lounge, there were no lights in that area for at least the first 2 sitting weeks. Temporary flood lights were in place, but did not fully light the room.
 - (a) How many functions were reserved for that area?
 - (b) How many functions were cancelled by clients due to the area not being properly lit?
 - (c) Were clients given any discounts for using the room with this issue?
28. What is the current projected timetable for the ceiling works project for Level 11?
 - (a) Where will Members and Members staff be relocated to during these works?

Weir Report

29. How many recommendations from the Weir Consulting report into WHS issues with Parliamentary Reporting Services (Hansard) have been fully implemented?
30. What is the timeframe for implementation?

31. Which recommendations have not been implemented by DPS?
32. When is the full report being presented to Parliament?

Hansard

33. Recent Estimates hearings have shown that there is a backlog with getting transcripts from Hansard as there are not sufficient staff – with the increase in committee work. Are new Hansard staff being recruited? Are they permanent part-time or fulltime staff?
34. Will you retain the existing performance benchmarks for the turnaround of Hansard transcripts?
 - (a) If meeting these benchmarks require more staff, will you hire them?
35. Have you made any progress towards improving or overhauling the chamber footage recording and collection process?
36. Will you implement a system similar to the Federal Parliament's ParView?
37. Will you allow the Parliamentary Library, once such a system is implemented, to return to its core role of running a first-class research service once they no longer have to spend significant amounts of time editing chamber footage?
38. Will you commit right to retaining the standards and provisioning of Hansard services, and associated staffing levels, in the event that a ParView type system is implemented?
 - (a) Can you confirm that an improved chamber footage collection system will not be used to justify cutting Hansard?

Rain Damage

39. Since the mass rain event in February 2020, the Parkes Room, Members Lounge and the Legislative Council Chambers have a distinct musty/mouldy smell.
 - (a) What damage has the front 'heritage' building of the Parliament sustained as a result of the rain event?
 - (b) Has mould been found in the 'heritage' building since the rain event?
 - i. If yes – what has been done to remove it?
 - (c) What is being done to ensure that these rooms has the odour removed?

CCTV

40. How many DPS staff have access to the CCTV system?
41. What are their position titles?

42. When CCTV records are accessed, is what was accessed, and the reasons why logged or recorded somewhere? Is there an access log?
43. Have CCTV records ever been provided to Members under any circumstances?
44. Can you guarantee that your Department has never allowed CCTV records to be leaked?
45. A number of years ago, DPS IT Services' records were used against Members of the LA and the LC in political attacks that threatened their careers. In neither instance had either Member done anything illegal; they were merely victims of a public smear. What protections exist to prevent similar misuse of CCTV records against Members and Ministers?

The People's House video

46. How much was spent on the production of "The People's House"?
47. Who paid for the video and which budget did it come out of and did it exceed the cost originally budgeted?
48. Which production company was used to produce the video?
49. Was the production put out to tender, what process was followed?

Crockery and expenditure on plates

50. How much did DPS spend on plates and crockery, were they recently updated? What was the total cost of this update?
51. Whose decision was it to update the crockery?
 - (a) Were quotes requested from a local manufacturer? Which ones?
52. Did you consider an interstate Australian manufacturer?
 - (a) Which ones?

The Gatehouse

53. How much was spent on the upgrade to the gatehouse on hospital road?
54. Was the design of the gatehouse a security risk for the constables? Who determined this risk? Did the constables raise this with you?
55. How much did it cost to fix this security issue? When was it fixed?
56. Who made the decision to upgrade the gate house? Why was it needed when the security was worse after the upgrade?

57. What are the security implications of the boom gates regularly being left open at the rear of the building? Clearly it is to make egress quicker at peak times, but there is nothing stopping a car from driving quickly through the open boom gate and into the carpark. Has this been risk-assessed?

Office of The Speaker

58. What is the travel budget for The Speaker? How much has the Speaker spent on travel since his election as Speaker?
59. How many staff are employed in the Office of The Speaker? How many of these are media advisors? How does this compare to previous Speakers office structure?