

TRANSPORT
Hearing Date: 3 September 2024
Supplementary Questions

Question no: 1

(1) Passengers experiencing delays on the Sydney - Central Coast Intercity line are often told that the delays are caused by “operational reasons” but not given any further detail. What does “operational reasons” mean?

Answer:

I am advised

When there is an incident impacting trains, all efforts are made to use simple terms to explain the cause.

‘Operational issue’ is used for incidents where there is not a simple and suitable phrase that explains it, for example if a specific train set was unavailable or staff were unavailable to operate a train. A review of recent messages for the Central Coast & Newcastle Line shows the use of this phrase in messaging to passengers during disruption is infrequent compared to the use of other reasons.

Question no: 2

(2) Are Sydney Trains prioritised over Intercity Trains when there is gridlock around Central Station?

Answer:

I am advised

During unplanned incidents at any station, the focus is on restoring all services back to normal as quickly as possible, and importantly, keeping passengers informed of the latest service information. Real time service adjustments during disruption are dependent on the specific circumstances of each incident.

Question no: 3

(3) Following the Wheelchair Accessible Taxi roundtable consultations, the Minister for Transport advised that a report would be published in Quarter 3 of this calendar year. It is now September, and we have heard no updates on the progress of this report.

- (a) Will this report be published by the end of September as promised; and
- (b) Will the actions from the report involve increased incentives for wheelchair accessible taxi drivers?

Answer:

I am advised

The report is being finalised for consideration by the Minister. Public release of the findings is expected in October 2024.

Question no: 4

(4) The Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Driver Incentive Subsidy (WATDIS) payment that provides incentives for drivers who pick up wheelchair users has not been increased since 2016. Data from the central booking service for WATs shows only 30% of wheelchair bookings are being fulfilled.

(a) Is an increase to the WATDIS payment being considered to incentivise drivers to pick up passengers who use wheelchairs?

Answer:

I am advised

Government response to the findings requires consideration of all options.

Question no: 5

(5) What cabinet sub committees are you a member of?

Answer:

I am advised

Details of individual Cabinet committee members and the work of Cabinet committees are not generally made public. This reflects the longstanding Cabinet conventions of confidentiality and collective Ministerial responsibility, which are central to the Westminster system of government.

The NSW Cabinet Practice Manual is publicly available on the NSW Government website (www.nsw.gov.au) and provides information on operation of Cabinet and committees in NSW.

Question no: 6

(6) Since 28 March 2023, have you had training from an external stakeholder that included an invoice and payment paid for using your ministerial budget?

(a) If yes, what is the description of training?

(b) If yes, how much?

Answer:

I am advised

Ministers have undertaken a program of Ministerial induction training.

Ministers have undertaken Respectful Workplace Policy Training.

Members of Parliament are provided with a Skills Development Allowance that may be used in a manner consistent with the Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal Annual Determination.

Question no: 7

(7) In what month will the 2023-24 annual reports for each department / agency in your portfolio be published?

Answer:

I am advised

The annual report of a reporting GSF agency is to be prepared, submitted and tabled in accordance with requirements under the Government Sector Finance Act 2018 and Treasurer's Direction 23-11.

Question no: 8

(8) Will the 2023-24 annual reports for the department / agency in your portfolio include a printed copy?

(a) If yes, how much is budgeted for printing in 2024-25?

Answer:

I am advised

The Transport annual reports are digital publications. Two copies of each will be printed for the purpose of tabling in each House of Parliament. No budget has been set aside for printing.

Question no: 9

(9) Have you ever been a member of the Electrical Trades Union (ETU)?

(a) If yes, when?

Answer:

I am advised

The Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 1983 (the Regulation) sets out Members' obligations to disclose relevant pecuniary and other interests in periodic returns to Parliament.

Clause 13 of the Regulation relevantly requires the disclosure of the name of each trade union and each professional or business association 'in which he or she held any position' as at specified dates. The Regulation does not require Members to disclose membership of a trade union.

Membership of Unions can be disclosed on a discretionary basis. The Clerk of the Parliaments has confirmed that this view is consistent with guidance provided to Members.

Question no: 10

(10) Does your Parliamentary Secretary have pass access to your ministerial office?

Answer:

I am advised

Security passes for the parliamentary precinct and 52 Martin Place are required to be issued in accordance with the Parliament House Security Pass Policy and 52 Martin Place security procedures and the associated Privacy and Surveillance Statement.

Question no: 11

(11) Does your Parliamentary Secretary have a desk in your ministerial office?

Answer:

I am advised

No.

Question no: 12

(12) Did any catering costs in 2023-24 include expenditure on alcohol?

Answer:

I am advised

The NSW Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct, which is Attachment B to the Ministers' Office Handbook, provides that all office holder staff must use State resources for the

effective conduct of public business in a proper manner. Office holder staff must be economical and efficient in the use and management of public resources. The Handbook can be found here: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/noindex/2023-12/Ministers-Office-Handbook.pdf>

Question no: 13

(13) What department(s)/agency(s) are included in your portfolio?

Answer:

I am advised

Information about NSW Government departments and agencies is publicly available on the NSW Government website.

Question no: 14

(14) Are there any former employee from your ministerial office now employed by any department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?
(a) If yes, how many?

Answer:

I am advised

The employment of former Ministerial office staff is not tracked.

Under the Government Sector Employment Act 2013, the Secretary of a Department exercises the employer functions of the Government in relation to departmental employees. The Secretary is not subject to the direction or control of a Minister in the exercise of those functions. Similarly, the head of a Public Service agency exercises the employer functions of the Government in relation to non-Public Service senior executives of the agency. A head of a Public Service agency is not subject to the direction or control of a Minister in the exercise of those functions.

All NSW government sector employees must comply with the Code of Ethics and Conduct for NSW government sector employees. Employees must also have regard to their relevant agency's code of conduct.

Ministerial office staff must comply with their ethical obligations under the NSW Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct, including after the cessation of the employment

Question no: 15

(15) Are you on Signal?
(a) If yes, do you access Signal from a NSW Government device?

Answer:

I am advised

Like the former Coalition Government, a range of communications are used by the NSW Government.

I comply with the State Records Act 1998 and I expect all staff members to comply with their obligations under the State Records Act 1998.

Question no: 16

(16) As at 30 June 2024, how many of your ministerial staff were local government councillors?

Answer:**I am advised**

Ministerial staff are employed by Ministers, on behalf of the State, in their capacity as "political office holders" under Part 2 of the Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013 (Act).

All Ministerial staff are required to comply with the NSW Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct, including obligations to seek approval for secondary employment, and to take reasonable steps to avoid, and in all cases disclose, any actual or potential conflicts of interest (real or apparent).

Question no: 17

(17) What local government(s) did they serve?

Answer:**I am advised**

Ministerial staff are employed by Ministers, on behalf of the State, in their capacity as "political office holders" under Part 2 of the Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013 (Act).

All Ministerial staff are required to comply with the NSW Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct, including obligations to seek approval for secondary employment, and to take reasonable steps to avoid, and in all cases disclose, any actual or potential conflicts of interest (real or apparent).

Question no: 18

(18) What was the expenditure for you to join a union in:

(a) 2022-23?

(b) 2023-24?

(c) 2024-25?

Answer:**I am advised**

The Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 1983 (the Regulation) sets out Members' obligations to disclose relevant pecuniary and other interests in periodic returns to Parliament.

Clause 13 of the Regulation relevantly requires the disclosure of the name of each trade union and each professional or business association 'in which he or she held any position' as at specified dates. The Regulation does not require Members to disclose membership of a trade union.

Membership of Unions can be disclosed on a discretionary basis. The Clerk of the Parliaments has confirmed that this view is consistent with guidance provided to Members.

Question no: 19

(19) Given ministerial diary disclosures do not include all meetings and provide exceptions to disclosures, since 28 March 2023, have you met with the ETU?

Answer:

I am advised

In accordance with the Premier's Memorandum 2015-05, all Ministers publish extracts from their diaries summarising details of scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations, third-party lobbyists and individuals.

Ministers are not required to disclose details of the following meetings:

- meetings involving Ministers, ministerial staff, parliamentarians or government officials (whether from NSW or other jurisdictions)
- meetings that are strictly personal, electorate or party political
- social or public functions or events
- meetings held overseas (which must be disclosed in accordance with regulation 6(1)(b) of the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018 and Attachment B to the Memorandum), and
- matters for which there is an overriding public interest against disclosure.

Ministers' diary disclosures are published quarterly on The Cabinet Office's website (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinetoffice/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures>)

Question no: 20

(20) Have you been the subject of any workplace complaints, including bullying, harassment, and sexual harassment since 28 March 2023?

Answer:

I am advised

Any complaint or disclosure made under the Respectful Workplace Policy is confidential. The Respectful Workplace Policy applies to all Ministerial Offices and staff. As noted in the Goward review, a key aspect of effective workplace complaint policies is confidentiality in the complaint and investigation process. Confidentiality ensures that staff feel safe about raising concerns and confident that action will be taken in response.

Question no: 21

(21) Has any member of your ministerial staff been the subject of any workplace complaints, including bullying, harassment, and sexual harassment since 28 March 2023

Answer:

I am advised

Any complaint or disclosure made under the Respectful Workplace Policy is confidential. The Respectful Workplace Policy applies to all Ministerial Offices and staff. As noted in the Goward review, a key aspect of effective workplace complaint policies is confidentiality in the complaint and investigation process. Confidentiality ensures that staff feel safe about raising concerns and confident that action will be taken in response.

Question no: 22

(22) Does your ministerial office have a paper shredder?

Answer:

I am advised

When the NSW Government was elected in 2023, shredders used by the former Liberal and National Government were left in Ministerial and Parliament offices. Office equipment is purchased in line with NSW Government procurement rules.

Question no: 23

(23) Have you and your ministerial office had training and/or a briefing about the State Records Act from State Records NSW and/or The Cabinet Office and/or Premier's Department?
(a) If yes, when?

Answer:

I am advised

The Cabinet Office provides training for Ministerial staff on their obligations under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act) and the requirements for responding to orders for papers under Standing Order 52 of the Legislative Council.

Question no: 24

(24) Does your ministerial office have the following paid by your ministerial budget:
(a) Handheld camera?
(b) Handheld video recorder?
(c) Microphone?
i. If yes to (a) to (c), how much is each worth when purchased?

Answer:

I am advised

The office uses a "handheld camera" that was purchased by the previous Government and acquired from Ministerial IT in March 2023. The office does not have a microphone or "handheld video recorder."

Question no: 25

(25) How much did the Department/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spend in legal costs since 28 March 2023?
(a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?

Answer:

I am advised

Information about the NSW Government legal spend is publicly available on the NSW Government Legal Services Annual Report on the Department of Communities and Justice website.

Details for the 2023-24 Financial Year will be published once data has been validated, and details for the 2024-25 Financial Year will form part of the 2024-25 annual report.

Question no: 26

(26) Are you a member of a union? (a) If yes, what union?

Answer:

The Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 1983 (the Regulation) sets out Members' obligations to disclose relevant pecuniary and other interests in periodic returns to Parliament.

Clause 13 of the Regulation relevantly requires the disclosure of the name of each trade union and each professional or business association 'in which he or she held any position' as at specified dates. The Regulation does not require Members to disclose membership of a trade union.

Membership of Unions can be disclosed on a discretionary basis. The Clerk of the Parliaments has confirmed that this view is consistent with guidance provided to Members.

Question no: 27

(27) How much has each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities spent on advertising or sponsored posts since 28 March 2023 on the following social media platforms:

- (a) Facebook
- (b) Instagram
- (c) LinkedIn
- (d) TikTok
- (e) YouTube
- (f) X (formerly known as Twitter)

Answer:**I am advised**

Department and agency expenditure is published in Annual Reports and on OpenGov NSW and data.nsw.gov.au.

Question no: 28

(28) How much of your ministerial budget was spent on catering in 2023-24?

Answer:**I am advised**

Catering provided for official purposes may be funded from the Ministerial office budget. Catering costs for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Premier's Department Agency Annual Report 2023-24.

As Members of Parliament, Ministers have credit facilities extended to them for dining and hospitality at Parliament House. The facilities may be used for business or private purposes.

Question no: 29

(29) Was catering used for external stakeholders?

- (a) If yes, who were these external stakeholders?

Answer:**I am advised**

Catering provided for official purposes may be funded from the Ministerial office budget.

As Members of Parliament, Ministers have credit facilities extended to them for dining and hospitality at Parliament House. The facilities may be used for business or private purposes.

Question no: 30

(30) How many senior executives in your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) have a driver?

Answer:

I am advised

No senior executive service employees have a dedicated driver.

Question no: 31

(31) Have you ever been a member of the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU)?
(a) If yes, when?

Answer:

I am advised

The Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 1983 (the Regulation) sets out Members' obligations to disclose relevant pecuniary and other interests in periodic returns to Parliament.

Clause 13 of the Regulation relevantly requires the disclosure of the name of each trade union and each professional or business association 'in which he or she held any position' as at specified dates. The Regulation does not require Members to disclose membership of a trade union.

Membership of Unions can be disclosed on a discretionary basis. The Clerk of the Parliaments has confirmed that this view is consistent with guidance provided to Members.

Question no: 32

(32) Does your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) draft and write speeches for you?

Answer:

I am advised

Department and agency staff may contribute to factual information for speaking notes as part of their duties in line with longstanding practices in place under successive governments.

Question no: 33

(33) How many public servants have undertaken writing speeches in your portfolio department(s) / agency(s)?

Answer:

I am advised

Department and agency staff may contribute to factual information for speaking notes as part of their duties in line with longstanding practices in place under successive governments.

Question no: 34

(34) Do you have a hard hat and/or vest for visiting infrastructure sites?
(a) If yes, was it paid from your ministerial budget?

Answer:**I am advised**

Ministers are to comply with the appropriate use of personal protective equipment as per Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017.

The NSW Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct, which is Attachment B to the Ministers' Office Handbook, provides that all office holder staff must use State resources for the effective conduct of public business in a proper manner. Office holder staff must be economical and efficient in the use and management of public resources. State resources are not to be subject to wasteful or extravagant use.

Question no: 35

(35) Was an efficiency dividend applied to your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) within your portfolio responsibilities in:
(a) 2023-24?
(b) 2024-25?
i. If so, what was the efficiency dividend applied to each department/agency?
ii. What measures are being considered to achieve this efficiency dividend?

Answer:**I am advised**

The budget papers include detailed information on budgeted expenses, revenue and capital expenditure. This includes detailed financial statements for individual agencies as well as for government as a whole. The budget papers also outline the financial impact of measures in the budget on individual portfolios as well as for government as a whole.

Question no: 36

(36) Since 28 March 2023, have you or your ministerial office purchased 'gin' using your ministerial budget?

Answer:**I am advised**

The NSW Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct, which is Attachment B to the Ministers' Office Handbook, provides that all office holder staff must use State resources for the effective conduct of public business in a proper manner. Office holder staff must be economical and efficient in the use and management of public resources.

The Handbook can be found here:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/noindex/2023-12/Ministers-Office-Handbook.pdf>

Question no: 37

(37) How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office in 2023-24 FY?

Answer:**I am advised**

Ministerial Staffing numbers are proactively published on the NSW website - <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>.

Question no: 38

(38) What is the average salary for staff members in your ministerial office in 2023-24 FY?

Answer:

I am advised

Ministerial Staffing numbers are proactively published on the NSW website - <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>.

Question no: 39

(39) On what date did you last update/make a ministerial disclosure to The Cabinet Office?

Answer:

I am advised

The Ministerial Code of Conduct (Ministerial Code) requires Ministers to make certain disclosures to the Premier and the Secretary of The Cabinet Office. I comply with my obligations under the Ministerial Code.

Question no: 40

(40) How much of your ministerial budget was spent on stationery in 2023-24?

Answer:

I am advised

Spending on office stationery is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.

The costs of stationery are contained within the Premier's Department Annual Report.

Question no: 41

(41) Did your stationery expenditure include gifts for external stakeholders?

(a) If yes, what was the gift(s)?

(b) If yes, who received the gift(s)?

Answer:

I am advised

The Ministers' Office Handbook outlines that the decision to present a gift is at the discretion of the Minister, having regard to both appropriateness and economy. Gifts may be appropriate, for example, where given as a memento of an official visit or as a small token of appreciation. However, gifts should not be given with the purpose, or in circumstances where they could be perceived as having the purpose, of inducing favourable treatment.

Gifts may be purchased as needed on an occasional basis or purchased and stored for future use. Gifts need to be purchased in accordance with NSW Government procurement policy.

Question no: 42

(42) Does your ministerial office have staff member(s) to undertake Government Information (Public Access) Act application(s) and/or Standing Order 52 requests?
(a) If yes, has that ministerial staffer(s) received formal training about their legal obligations?

Answer:**I am advised**

The Cabinet Office provides training for Ministerial staff on their obligations under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act) and the requirements for responding to orders for papers under Standing Order 52 of the Legislative Council.

Question no: 43

(43) How many GIPA Applications have been received by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

Answer:**I am advised**

Information concerning the obligations of a Minister's office as an agency under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (the Act) is required to be submitted to the Attorney General in accordance with section 125(2) of the Act.

The information is included in the annual report of the Department of Communities and Justice in accordance with sections 125(3) and (5) of the Act.

Question no: 44

(44) Have you received gin from the Police Commissioner?

Answer:**I am advised**

No.

Question no: 45

(45) Are you a Member of the Qantas Chairman's Club?
(a) If no, have you ever previously been a member?
(b) If yes, when did you cease to be a member?
(c) If yes, when did you initially become a member?
(d) If yes, when did you make a declaration to The Cabinet Office?
(e) If yes, how many times since 28 March 2023 have you used the Qantas Chairman's Club?

Answer:**I am advised**

The Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 1983 (the Regulation) sets out Members' obligations to disclose relevant pecuniary and other interests in periodic returns to Parliament.

The Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics Report on Review of the Code of Conduct, Aspects of Disclosure of Interests, and Related Issues (December 2010) notes that:

“Advice has been received from the Crown Solicitor that use of the Chairman's Lounge by invitation is not a "gift" for the purposes of clause 10 of the Regulation, as it does not involve disposition of property. However, when the membership leads to an upgrade valued at more than \$250, it becomes disclosable as a contribution to travel, and should be reported under clause 11 of the Regulation.”

Clause 16 of the Regulation allows a Member to, at their discretion, disclose any direct or indirect benefit, advantage or liability, whether pecuniary or not.

Relevant disclosures have been made to the Cabinet Office and to the NSW Parliament.

Question no: 46

(46) Does your ministerial vehicle have an E-Toll?
(a) If yes, is expenditure paid by you by your ministerial budget?

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. All costs associated with these vehicles need to be paid from the relevant approved budget.

Costs for e-tolls form part of the Premier's Department Annual Report.

Question no: 47

(47) Does your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) have a gifts and/or hospitality register?
(a) If yes, is it available online? i. If yes, what is the URL?

Answer:

I am advised

Yes, the register is only accessible via Transport for NSW internal network.

Question no: 48

(48) Since 28 March 2023, have you visited any of these postcodes:

- (a) 2077?
- (b) 2079?
- (c) 2080?
- (d) 2081?
- (e) 2082?
- (f) 2083?
- (g) 2117?
- (h) 2118?
- (i) 2119?
- (j) 2120?
- (k) 2121?
- (l) 2125?
- (m) 2126?
- (n) 2151?
- (o) 2154?
- (p) 2156?
- (q) 2157?
- (r) 2158?

(s) 2159?

(t) 2756?

(u) 2775?

i. If yes to (a) to (u): 1. What was the purpose of the visit(s)?

2. Did you make a funding announcement(s)?

Answer:

I am advised

Ministers' diary disclosures are publicly available.

Premier's and Ministers' domestic travel information is published on the Premier's Department's website at: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-andagencies/premiers-department/access-to-information/premier-and-ministersdomestic-travel>.

Question no: 49

(49) Since 28 March 2023, have you breached the Ministerial Code of Conduct?

(a) If yes, what was the breach?

Answer:

I am advised

All Ministers are expected to comply with their obligations under the NSW Ministerial Code of Conduct (Ministerial Code) at all times.

The Ministerial Code sets the ethical standards of behaviour required of Ministers and establishes practices and procedures to assist with compliance.

Among other matters, the Ministerial Code requires Ministers to:

- disclose their pecuniary interests and those of their immediate family members to the Premier
- seek rulings from the Premier if they wish to hold shares, directorships, other business interests or engage in secondary employment (known as 'prohibited interests')
- identify, avoid, disclose and manage conflicts of interest
- disclose gifts and hospitality with a market value over \$500.

A substantial breach of the Ministerial Code (including a knowing breach of any provision of the Schedule) may constitute corrupt conduct for the purposes of the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988*.

Question no: 50

(50) Are you on TikTok?

(a) If yes, do you access TikTok from a NSW Government device?

Answer:

I am advised

The Circular DCS-2023-01 Cyber Security NSW Directive - Protecting NSW Government information on government-issued devices sets out how NSW Government agencies are to manage the risk of using TikTok.

More information is available at:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/public%3A//2023->

[05/TikTok%20Ban%20-%20Frequently%20Asked%20Questions%20%282%29.pdfTikTok%20Ban%20-%20Frequently%20Asked%20Questions%20%282%29.pdf](#)

Question no: 51

(51) Given ministerial diary disclosures do not include all meetings and provide exceptions to disclosures, since 28 March 2023, have you met with the CFMEU?

Answer:

I am advised

In accordance with the Premier's Memorandum 2015-05, all Ministers publish extracts from their diaries summarising details of scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations, third-party lobbyists and individuals.

Ministers are not required to disclose details of the following meetings:

- meetings involving Ministers, ministerial staff, parliamentarians or government officials (whether from NSW or other jurisdictions)
- meetings that are strictly personal, electorate or party political
- social or public functions or events
- meetings held overseas (which must be disclosed in accordance with regulation 6(1)(b) of the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018 and Attachment B to the Memorandum), and
- matters for which there is an overriding public interest against disclosure.

Ministers' diary disclosures are published quarterly on The Cabinet Office's website (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinetoffice/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures>).

Question no: 52

(52) Have you ever been issued with a credit card by a NSW Government department(s) and/or agency(s) since 28 March 2023?

(a) If yes, under what circumstance?

(b) If yes, what items and expenditure was undertaken?

Answer:

I am advised

Ministers and Ministerial Staff are not eligible to receive Departmental credit cards except in the case of overseas travel. In cases of overseas travel short-term cards will be issued and returned at the completion of official travel together with a travel diary for fringe benefit tax purposes.

Where an NSW Government-issued credit card is provided the credit card must only be used for official overseas business trips and official business purposes, this includes for transport to/from the airport when departing/returning from the trip. NSW Government-issued credit cards for official business trips overseas will be held with government contract bankers and used within credit limits imposed. Credit cards are a useful means of expenditure control, but their use should never be for personal purposes.

Costs associated with overseas travel are published on the NSW Government website in line with M2015-05.

Question no: 53

- (53) For each department, agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio please report:
- (a) How many credit cards are currently on issue for staff? (Please provide a break-down of this information by grade)
 - (b) What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card for the last year?
 - (c) What was each largest reported purchase for?
 - (d) What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period?
 - (e) And what was the card holder's employment grade?
 - (f) How many credit cards have been reported lost or stolen?
 - (g) What was the cost to replace them?
 - (h) How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to agency policy?
 - i. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on the basis that they were illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and what was the total value thereof?
 - ii. Were all those amounts repaid?
 - (i) Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes?
 - i. Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?
 - ii. Can a copy of the staff credit card policy please be provided?

Answer:**I am advised**

The use and management of purchasing (credit) cards for official purposes is in accordance with the Transport for NSW Purchasing Card Policy which is publicly available on the Transport for NSW website.

Question no: 54

- (54) Since 28 March 2023, have you personally driven your ministerial vehicle?

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.

Office holders may drive themselves whenever they choose. Cars should be driven only by the office holder, officially employed drivers, the office holder's spouse or approved relative and any other person authorised by the office holder in those circumstances considered to be appropriate.

Question no: 55

- (55) As a driver since 28 March 2023:
- (a) Have you been pulled over by the NSW Police Force?
 - (b) Have you been fined for speeding?
 - (c) Have you been fined for school zone related offence?
 - (d) Have you been fined for red light related offence?
 - (e) Have you been involved in an accident that included the NSW Police attending the scene?
 - i. If yes to a) to e), did this include whilst driving your ministerial vehicle?

Answer:

I am advised

Ministers, like all members of the community are subject to the laws of New South Wales, including Road Rules 2014.

Where a fine is incurred, the payment of the fine is the responsibility of the driver of the vehicle.

Question no: 56

(56) Do you have a desk or office in your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) building(s)?

Answer:

I am advised

I make use of an office in 52 Martin Place, NSW Parliament and my Electorate office.

When travelling, Ministers may make ad hoc arrangements to work for periods in Departmental offices.

Question no: 57

(57) Has your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) undertaken a land audit of surplus government property in any of the following postcodes:

- (a) 2077?
- (b) 2079?
- (c) 2080?
- (d) 2081?
- (e) 2082?
- (f) 2083?
- (g) 2117?
- (h) 2118?
- (i) 2119?
- (j) 2120?
- (k) 2121?
- (l) 2125?
- (m) 2126?
- (n) 2151?
- (o) 2154?
- (p) 2156?
- (q) 2157?
- (r) 2158?
- (s) 2159?
- (t) 2756?
- (u) 2775?

i. If yes to (a) to (u), how many properties have been identified

Answer:

I am advised

The land audit of all Government owned Property is being led by the Property and Development NSW in the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

Question no: 58

(58) How many mobile phones has your ministerial office been allocated as at 1 July 2024?

Answer:**I am advised**

Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Communication Devices Policy provides guidance on the use, loss, theft, and return of communication devices provided for business purposes. Minister's staff may use mobile telephones for business and (reasonable use) private purposes.

Under the current mobile plans all local and Australia-wide calls to land lines/mobiles and texts are included in the plan. Premium service calls, international calls and global roaming services are outside of the plan and may be still chargeable based on the principles below.

Ministers' staff mobile phone charges are paid from the Ministers' office budget except for the items listed below, which need to be paid as a private expense:

- Personal international calls from within Australia
- Personal travel related global roaming charges
- Personal premium number service calls

Any personal calls which are outside the plan need to be declared and paid for monthly. Declarations are not required otherwise.

The purchasing of technology items is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.

The costs form part of the Premier's Department Annual report.

Question no: 59

(59) How many mobile phones in your ministerial office have been lost or stolen since 28 March 2023?

Answer:**I am advised**

Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Communication Devices Policy provides guidance on the use, loss, theft, and return of communication devices provided for business purposes. Minister's staff may use mobile telephones for business and (reasonable use) private purposes.

Under the current mobile plans all local and Australia-wide calls to land lines/mobiles and texts are included in the plan. Premium service calls, international calls and global roaming services are outside of the plan and may be still chargeable based on the principles below.

Ministers' staff mobile phone charges are paid from the Ministers' office budget except for the items listed below, which need to be paid as a private expense:

- Personal international calls from within Australia
- Personal travel related global roaming charges
- Personal premium number service calls

Any personal calls which are outside the plan need to be declared and paid for monthly. Declarations are not required otherwise.

The purchasing of technology items is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.

The costs form part of the Premier's Department Annual report.

Question no: 60

(60) Since 28 March 2023, how many consultancy contracts have been signed in your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?

- (a) What was the individual amount of each contract?
- (b) What is the purpose of each contract?
- (c) Who was the contract with?
- (d) Did the contract go through a competitive tender?

Answer:

I am advised

Information about the consultant engagements is publicly available in the department/agency annual reports.

Details for the 2023-24 Financial Year will be published once data has been validated, and details for the 2024-25 Financial Year will form part of the 2024-25 annual report.

Question no: 61

(61) Does your ministerial office keep a register of gifts and/or hospitality for staff to make disclosures?

Answer:

I am advised

All Ministerial staff are required to comply with the Gifts, Hospitality and Benefits Policy for Office Holder Staff attached to the Ministers' Office Handbook and available on the NSW Government website.

Question no: 62

(62) Have any staff members in your office been the recipient of any free hospitality?

- (a) What was the total value of the hospitality received?
- (b) Are these gifts of hospitality declared?

Answer:

I am advised

All Ministerial staff are required to comply with their disclosure obligations under the Gifts, Hospitality and Benefits Policy for Office Holder Staff and I expect them to do so.

A breach of the Policy may be a breach of the Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct. The Policy includes disclosure obligations for Ministerial staff in respect of gifts, hospitality and benefits over \$150.

If a Ministerial staff member is required by their role to accompany their Office Holder at an event that the Office Holder is attending as the State's representative, or where the Office Holder has asked the staff member to attend, then attendance at that event would not constitute a gift or benefit for the purposes of the Policy.

Question no: 63

(63) As Minister, do you approve overseas travel for public servants in your portfolio department(s) / Agency(s)?
(a) If yes, how many overseas trips have you approved since 28 March 2023?

Answer:**I am advised**

The NSW Government Travel and Transport Policy provides a framework for NSW Government travelling employees and covers official air and land travel by public officials using public money.

Section 2.1 of that Policy sets out approvals required in relation to overseas travel. Further information in relation to the Policy can be found here:

<https://www.info.buy.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/travel-and-transport-policy>

NSW Treasury Policy and Guidelines – Annual Reporting Requirements (TPG-10) requires agencies to include information on overseas visits by officers and employees in agency annual reports. Information for the period prior to 30 June 2023 is available in agencies' 2022-23 annual reports. Information for the period between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024 will be available in agencies' 2023-24 annual reports.

These items are contained within the travel costs category in the Annual Reports. Details for the 2023-24 Financial Year will be published once data has been validated, and details for the 2024-25 Financial Year will form part of the 2024-25 annual report.

Question no: 64

(64) Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?

Answer:**I am advised**

I refer to the response to Supplementary Question 63.

Question no: 65

(65) Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on domestic flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
(a) Of these, how many flights were taken in business class?

Answer:**I am advised**

I refer to the response to Supplementary Question 63.

Question no: 66

(66) Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on international flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
(a) Of these, how many flights were taken in business class?
(b) Of these, how many flights were taken in first class?

Answer:

I am advised

Official travel is taken in accordance with the NSW Government travel policy, which is publicly available online.

Details for the 2023-24 Financial Year will be published once data has been validated, and details for the 2024-25 Financial Year will form part of the 2024-25 annual report.

Question no: 67

(67) What was the total expenditure since 28 March 2023 by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:

- (a) Taxi hire?
- (b) Ridesharing services?
- (c) Limousine/private car hire?
- (d) Hire car rental?

Answer:

I am advised

These items are contained within the travel costs category in Annual Reports.

Details for the 2023-24 Financial Year will be published once data has been validated, and details for the 2024-25 Financial Year will form part of the 2024-25 annual report.

Question no: 68

(68) Since 28 March 2023, have you shared Cabinet documents with your Parliamentary Secretary?

Answer:

I am advised

The conventions and practice for access to Cabinet documents are outlined in Premier's Memorandum M2006-08 - Maintaining Confidentiality of Cabinet Documents and Other Cabinet Conventions (M2006-8).

M2006-08 provides that the unauthorised and/or premature disclosure of Cabinet documents undermines collective ministerial responsibility and the convention of Cabinet confidentiality. It is essential that the confidentiality of Cabinet documents is maintained to enable full and frank discussions to be had prior to Cabinet making decisions.

Question no: 69

(69) What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and received) unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

Answer:

I am advised

All acceptable use of IT services must be lawful, appropriate, and ethical.

The Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Network Services Policy is available in the Ministers' Office Handbook.

Question no: 70

(70) What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

Answer:

I am advised

All acceptable use of IT services must be lawful, appropriate, and ethical.

The Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Network Services Policy is available in the Ministers' Office Handbook.

Question no: 71

(71) How many senior executive service employees were employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:

- (a) 28 March 2023?
- (b) 1 July 2023?
- (c) 1 January 2024?
- (d) 1 July 2024?

Answer:

I am advised

Information regarding senior executives is publicly available in Annual Reports. Details for the 2023-24 Financial Year will be published once data has been validated, and details for the 2024-25 Financial Year will form part of the 2024-25 annual report.

Question no: 72

(72) How many public servants within your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) were paid more than the Premier in 2023-24?

Answer:

I am advised

Information about senior executive remuneration is publicly available in Annual Reports. Salaries and wages are included under employee related expenses in the Financial Statements of the Annual Report. Details for the 2023-24 Financial Year will be published once data has been validated.

Question no: 73

(73) How many redundancies were processed by each Department(s)/agency(s) within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?

- (a) Of these redundancies, how many were: ii. Voluntary? iii. Forced?
- (b) What was the total cost of all redundancies in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

Answer:

I am advised

Redundancies are publicly available in Annual Reports under employee related expenses. Details for the 2023-24 Financial Year will be published once data has been validated, and details for the 2024-25 Financial Year will form part of the 2024-25 annual report.

Question no: 74

(74) Are all the ministerial media releases and statements issued by you publicly available at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases>?

- (a) If no, why?

Answer:

I am advised

The Department of Customer Service (DCS) is responsible for managing www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases and the publication of media releases.

Question no: 75

(75) Since 28 March 2023, have you and/or your ministerial office given instructions to your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) in relation to Government Information (Public Access) Act application(s)?

Answer:

I am advised

The Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 provides that agencies are not subject to the direction or control of any Minister in the exercise of the agency's functions in dealing with a particular access application under the Act (subsection 9(2)). The Act also contains offences prohibiting agency officers from acting unlawfully, and prohibiting persons from directing agencies to make an unlawful decision in relation to an access application (sections 116 and 117 of the Act).

It is, however, generally appropriate for agencies to inform the responsible Minister where documents are to be released under the Act, for the Minister's information.

Question no: 76

(76) According to the Minister for Roads in a Budget Estimates hearing on 6 September 2024, the Minister for Transport is currently undertaking some work in relation to looking into the NSW Road Rules unladen weight limit for motorised mobility wheelchairs, and the registration requirements of these devices. What work is the Minister for Transport doing in relation to this?

Answer:

I am advised

Under the NSW Road Rule 18 (a), a person driving a motorised wheelchair that cannot travel at over 10km/h (on level ground) is categorised as a pedestrian. Motorised wheelchairs that are speed limited are also exempt from registration or licensing requirements.

Most motorised wheelchairs and scooters available for sale in NSW are speed limited to 10km/h, however Transport for NSW advises customers to check this with their retailer when purchasing.

Question no: 77

(77) Does the NSW Government have an intention to review the NSW Road Rules in relation to allowing motorised wheelchairs to have unlimited weight limits for footpath use and scooters to have an unladen mass limit of 170kgs, in line with recommendations from Austroads, Standards Australia, the National Transport Commission and various disability representative organisations?

Answer:

I am advised

There are no current plans to amend the regulation that governs motorised wheelchairs.

Question no: 78

(78) In the 2024-25 Budget, the expenditure over four years to 2027-28 is \$547.5 million. Please provide a breakdown of this expenditure, including how much is for the Commuter Car Park Program and how much for the Transport Access Program? (a) How much of this expenditure is funds rolled over from the 2023-24 Budget or previous?

Answer:

I am advised

The 2023-24 NSW Budget established a new combined fund to upgrade train stations to make them more accessible, safe and secure by combining the existing Transport Access Program fund with the Commuter Car Parking Program fund with additional \$300 million committed at the election.

The 2024-25 NSW Budget allocated \$547.5 million over four years to 2027-28 to the combined Safe, Accessible Transport Program. Approximately \$214 million was spent of the \$537 million in 2023-24 and the remaining amount of \$323 million has been rolled over as per the updated planning and delivery schedule.