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| INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS |
| Industrial Relations Court |
| (1) What is the total cost of establishing and staffing the Industrial Relations Court? (2) Where will the Industrial Relations Court be located? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: The Industrial Court of NSW commenced on 1 July 2024. 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. Work on establishing permanent accommodation for the Industrial Relations Court is underway. |

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| (3) Did the review make any recommendations regarding the provision of mutual gains bargaining to agencies and unions? (a) If so, what were those recommendations? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: The Industrial Relations Taskforce Report is a report to Cabinet. |

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| WORK HEALTH & SAFETY |
| Fort Street Public School |
| (4) When did you become aware that Yaga Corp, in which El Jarra and Soukie are shareholders, is providing allegedly “safe-access platforms to Fort Street Public School”? |
| ANSWER: |

Please refer to the answer provided by the Deputy Premier to a question on notice from the Hon. Sarah Mitchell MLC.

Impact of Engineered Stone Ban on Small Businesses:

(5) What support is the government providing to small businesses affected by the ban on engineered stone, specifically those in the stone benchtop industry?

(a) Has the government considered providing financial assistance, such as low-interest loans or grants, to help these businesses recover and diversify?

(6) Why has there been a lack of clear communication from SafeWork NSW to the public about compliant engineered stone products?

(a) What steps is the government taking to improve public awareness and clarify which engineered stone products are still permitted under the new regulations?

(7) What measures is the government implementing to assist stone fabricators in transitioning to alternative materials and upgrading their facilities and equipment?

(a) Are there specific grants or programs available to support retooling, retraining, and upgrading showrooms to reflect the shift to compliant products?

ANSWER:

Please refer to the answer at LA QoN 3475.

WHS Standards in Construction

(8) How is the government ensuring that workplace health and safety standards are upheld on construction sites amidst the expansion of housing and infrastructure projects?

(a) What specific measures are in place to manage the increased workload and ensure the safety of workers?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The approach taken by SafeWork NSW to upholding workplace health and safety standards in the building and construction industry is described in the Building and Construction Work Health and Safety Blueprint to 2026.

SafeWork NSW will continue to respond to incidents and requests for service and conduct proactive site visits and strategic engagement to help ensure compliance with work health and safety laws on construction sites.

SafeWork NSW is hosting free symposiums across NSW to consult with the building and construction industry on the issue of maintaining safety in a skills shortage with a housing and infrastructure boom.

Safety Standards in High-Risk Developments

(9) How is the government addressing WHS concerns in high-risk developments, such as high-rise residential buildings?

(a) What budget allocations support the enforcement of safety standards in these high-risk projects?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The approach taken by SafeWork NSW to upholding workplace health and safety standards in the building and construction industry is described in the Building and Construction Work Health and Safety Blueprint to 2026.

Incidents, requests for service, proactive site visits and strategic interactions across the building and construction industry, including high-risk developments, are resourced within the existing SafeWork NSW budget allocation.

Mental Health Support for Construction Workers

(10) What provisions are included in the budget to support the mental health and wellbeing of construction workers, particularly those involved in large-scale infrastructure projects?

(a) How does the government plan to address mental health issues among construction workers and ensure they receive adequate support?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The SafeWork NSW Psychological Health and Safety Strategy 2024-2026 is backed by \$5.65 million in funding from the NSW Government over the next two years and outlines how SafeWork NSW will support the mental health and wellbeing of all workers, including construction workers and those involved in large scale infrastructure projects.

Implementation of the Psychological Health and Safety Strategy 2024-2026 and Building and Construction Work Health and Safety Blueprint to 2026 supports the mental health and wellbeing of construction workers, including those involved in large scale infrastructure projects.

SafeWork NSW undertakes compliance and enforcement activities, targeted guidance and education programs and provides free tools and resources to support the mental health of construction workers.

Case Management System Upgrade

(11) When will SafeWork NSW be equipped with a fit-for-purpose case management system? The current WSMS system is over 20 years old and has been deemed inadequate by the Audit Office's performance report.
(a) What is the timeline for implementing a modern system?

ANSWER:

The NSW Government inherited a case management system which was not fit for purpose from the previous Liberal-National Government.

I am advised:

SafeWork NSW is developing a robust business case to seek the necessary funding to replace the current Workplace Safety Management System (WSMS) with a cost effective, fit for purpose and modern digital solution.

WSMS will continue to be maintained while work progresses to identify a suitable replacement digital platform.

The project is supported by an additional \$4.4 million under the 2024-2025 NSW Budget and aligns with the recommendations from the NSW Auditor-General's Report and the Independent Review of SafeWork NSW by the Hon Robert McDougall KC.

The business case is expected to be completed in 2025.

Standardised Incident Reporting Forms

(12) Does SafeWork NSW require employers to submit written notices in standardised forms, as allowed under sections 38(4) and (5) of the WHS Act, to obtain meaningful information about specific harms, incident categories, and worker categories?
(a) If not, why has this approach not been adopted?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

SafeWork NSW does not require a person conducting a business or undertaking to submit a written notice of the incident and therefore does not

have a standardised form. Notifiable incidents must be reported to SafeWork NSW by the fastest possible means. SafeWork NSW's preferred notification method is by phone, as this is the most immediate means for SafeWork NSW to clarify and ask further questions in relation to the incident and obtain all relevant information to triage and respond to the notification.

Recording of Contractor/Supervisor License Numbers

(13) Why does SafeWork NSW not mandate the recording of contractor or supervisor Home Building Act licence numbers during incident notifications involving apprentices in Home Building Act specialist trades?

(a) How many referrals has SafeWork NSW made to the Building Commissioner's disciplinary action unit in FYs 22/23 and 23/24 for HBA license holders breaching WHS duties?

i. What were these referrals for, and how many resulted in show cause notices or disciplinary action?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

SafeWork NSW does not currently mandate the collection or recording of the details of licences or supervisor certificates issued under the *Home Building Act 1989* (HB Act) during incident notification. SafeWork NSW does not have any jurisdiction under the HB Act, and this information may not be readily available at the time of incident notification. Further, the triage process does not rely on this information to determine or inform the triage outcome. Should a matter be triaged for an inspector response, and where there are indications that work health and safety risks have arisen from alleged poor supervision, instruction or training, this type of information may be sought by the allocated SafeWork NSW Inspector.

SafeWork NSW proactively refers matters to the Building Commission NSW in various circumstances. The SafeWork NSW Workplace Safety Management System (WSMS) does not have mandatory fields to facilitate the capture or reporting of HBA licence or referral information in connection with a request for service or incident response.

It is a matter for the Building Commission to determine whether referrals are allocated to the disciplinary action unit, and further, to determine the appropriate regulatory outcome in respect of referrals made by SafeWork NSW.

Governance and Reporting Requirements

(14) When will the Minister confirm the planned governance and reporting requirements for SafeWork NSW?

ANSWER:

The Government is considering the options and any proposed legislative changes to establish SafeWork NSW as a standalone agency.

Apprentice Electric Shocks and Supervisory Practices

(15) How many apprentices received an electric shock at work in the trades of electrical wiring, refrigeration, air-conditioning, and plumbing during FYs 22/23 and 23/24?

(a) Was the presence of a suitably licensed supervisor confirmed in each instance, with the licence details recorded?

(b) How many incidents received an inspector response, and were these inspectors electrically qualified?

(c) Additionally, how many incidents were addressed with an administrative (Category 4) response without verifying the legitimacy of the supervision?

ANSWER:

The NSW Government is committed to continuously improving the triage process, and work on establishing SafeWork NSW as an independent regulator is well advanced.

I am advised:

In financial year 2022-2023, SafeWork NSW received 581 incident notifications where the injury or illness was described as electric shock. Of these incident notifications, 491 received an administrative response (including Category 4) and 90 received an inspector response in accordance with the SafeWork NSW model for triage of workplace incidents and work health and safety complaints.

In financial year 2023-2024, SafeWork NSW received 587 incident notifications where the injury or illness was described as electric shock. Of these incident notifications, 448 received an administrative response (including Category 4) and 139 received an inspector response in accordance with the SafeWork NSW model for triage of workplace incidents and work health and safety complaints.

The Building Commission NSW is responsible for the regulation of electrical work, including the licensing framework and the Supervision Practice Standards for electrical work.

Migrant Workers Centre

(16) Due to the large number of migrant workers that work across the Murray electorate particularly under the PALM scheme, Temporary Skill Shortage visas and Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional Visas. Will the Government consider advocating for the centre to be located in the Murray electorate, where it will have a real impact on vulnerable migrant workers?

ANSWER:

This question is better directed to Multicultural NSW.

Criteria

(17) What are the current criteria for deciding what constitutes “office workers”?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

All roles in the government sector are described as either frontline or non-frontline.

(18) What is the criteria for workers who are allowed to work remotely?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Government Sector agencies, in consultation with staff and unions, are developing their own policies to implement the *NSW Government Sector workplace presence circular*.

Government sector agencies are expected to have flexible work policies that meet reasonable requests of employees and meet the needs of the agency, teams, and community. Individual agreements are a matter for the employee and their agency.

Increased costs from the decision

(19) By encouraging effective use of public assets by returning workers to the office- will the government need to increase the number of offices?

(a) Would it be cheaper for taxpayers for workers to work from home?

i. If so, why doesn't the government allow flexible working arrangements where possible to save taxpayer money?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

As set out in the *NSW Government Sector workplace presence circular* the effective use of public assets, including workplaces and offices, requires that they be utilised across the full working week. The progressive implementation of Agencies' policies should take into account accommodation availability in each agency, as well as effective utilisation of accommodation.

(20) How is the government aiming to help individuals adapt to this change?

- (a) Is the government considering helping subsidise childcare?
- (b) And/or increase wages to help families adapt to this change?

(21) Has the government considered the increased costs of this decision, like fuel and rent, and the effect this will have on workers?

(22) Will this decision affect families now that the costs of childcare need to be factored into employment?

Effect of the decision

(23) Has the government considered the effect of this decision on regional communities?

- (a) Particularly workers leaving regional areas to live closer to offices.

(24) Has the government considered the number of workers who now have to relocate to go to work?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The *NSW Government Sector workplace presence circular* does not change the availability of flexible working arrangements such as flexible hours and scheduling, flexible rostering, hybrid working, part-time work, job-share arrangements and more.

(25) When work can be done in an online setting, what are the government's motives and aims to bring people back into the office?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

As set out in the *NSW Government Sector workplace presence circular*, the Government is focused on building and replenishing the long-term health of our critical public institutions and continued delivery of world class services for our communities.

(26) Has the government considered more flexible working arrangements for individuals who are balancing work and family commitments?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The *NSW Government Sector workplace presence circular* does not change the availability of flexible working arrangements such as flexible hours and scheduling, flexible rostering, hybrid working, part-time work, job-share arrangements and more.

Research into the decision

(27) What research has been conducted on the benefits of moving government sector workers back into an approved workplace, office, or worksite.

(28) What research was done to conclude that building trusted networks, having a sense of belonging and working as a team are mutually exclusive to working online?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Various mechanisms are used to inform data including The People Matter Employee Survey (PMES) which informs data on experience and perceptions of a range of workplace issues and practices.

(29) How does the decision support diversity within the workplace and neurodivergent workers who are more comfortable and efficient working from home?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The NSW Government Sector workplace presence circular does not change the availability of flexible working arrangements such as flexible hours and scheduling, flexible rostering, hybrid working, part-time work, job-share arrangements. People with Disability, health conditions and injuries can request adjustments including working from home through their agency adjustments policy.

Incolink

(30) What are the formal or informal financial agreements between Incolink and Construction and Building Industries Training Ltd?

(31) What are the CFMEU industry agreements that mandate the use of Incolink as a redundancy fund?

(32) Does NSW Industrial Relations provide any oversight over payments between redundancy funds and unions?

(a) Do you think these payments should occur?

(33) What information does NSW Industrial Relations receive from these funds?

(34) Does NSW Industrial Relations know how much money is in these funds?

(a) How much?

(35) Does NSW Industrial Relations know how much money goes to these funds every year?

(a) How much?

(36) Does NSW Industrial Relations know how much money goes from these funds to unions each year?

(a) How much?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

This information is not available to the Government.

Governance and Reporting Requirements

(37) When will the Minister confirm the planned governance and reporting requirements for SafeWork NSW?

ANSWER:

Please see answer to question 14.

Apprentice Electric Shocks and Supervisory Practices

(38) How many apprentices received an electric shock at work in the trades of electrical wiring, refrigeration, air-conditioning and plumbing during FYs 22/23 and 23/24?

(a) Was the presence of a suitably licensed supervisor confirmed in each instance, with the license details recorded?

(39) How many incidents received an inspector response, and were these inspectors electrically qualified?

(a) Additionally, how many incidents were addressed with an administrative (Category 4) response without verifying the legitimacy of the supervision?

ANSWER:

Please see answer to question 15.

Recording of Contractor/Supervisor License Numbers

(40) Why does SafeWork NSW not mandate the recording of contractor or supervisor Home Building Act license numbers during incident notifications involving apprentices in Home Building Act specialist trades?

(41) How many referrals has SafeWork NSW made to the Building Commissioner's disciplinary action unit in FYs 22/23 and 23/24 for HBA license holders breaching WHS duties?

(a) What were these referrals for, and how many resulted in show cause notices or disciplinary action?

ANSWER:

Please see answer to question 13.

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| Mental Health Support for Construction Workers |
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| (42) What provisions are included in the budget to support the mental health and wellbeing of construction workers, particularly those involved in large-scale infrastructure projects? |
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| (43) How does the government plan to address mental health issues among construction workers and ensure they receive adequate support? |
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| ANSWER: |
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| Please see answer to question 10. |
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| Swillhouse sexual assaults |
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| (44) Regarding the series of sexual assaults in Swillhouse Venues throughout Sydney, do you agree with Sally Sitou's comments, that the Hospitality industry needs to undergo a "period of soul searching"? |
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| (45) As minister for Industrial Relations, what steps do you propose the Hospitality Industry take to remove workplace safety concerns, such as sexual assault? |
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| ANSWER: |
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| The allegations of serious work health and safety issues in the hospitality industry highlighted in recent media reports are extremely concerning. |
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| I am advised: |
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| SafeWork NSW is making inquiries into the allegations raised in these media reports. |
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| Under work health and safety (WHS) laws, NSW businesses have a positive duty to take all reasonable steps to eliminate or minimise both physical and psychological risks to health and safety. |
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| This includes the risk of workplace sexual harassment, including from third parties such as customers, and work-related risks from drugs and alcohol. |
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| Synergy scaffolding and construction safety |
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| (46) How many times this year has the Minister met with the CFMEU, specifically to address the safety concerns on work sites? |
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| ANSWER: |
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I am advised:

In accordance with Premier's Memorandum M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information, 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-cabinet-office/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures>).

(47) How many times this year has SafeWork NSW met with the CFMEU, specifically to address the safety concerns on work sites?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

SafeWork NSW engages with CFMEU representatives on work health safety matters in various contexts.

(48) How did Synergy Scaffolding's practices contribute to the overloading of scaffolding?

(a) What protocols were supposed to be followed to prevent such incidents?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Under work health and safety (WHS) laws, NSW businesses have a positive duty to take all reasonable steps to eliminate or minimise risks to health and safety.

Synergy Scaffolding were prosecuted by SafeWork NSW (*SafeWork NSW v Synergy Scaffolding Services Pty Ltd* [2022] NSWDC 584).

(49) Why did the CFMEU continue to promote Synergy Scaffolding despite the company's track record of safety violations and legal issues?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

This information is not available to the Government.

(50) How can unions and regulatory bodies improve their oversight to ensure that companies with a history of unsafe practices are not repeatedly promoted for major projects?

(51) What accountability measures are in place for unions that continue to support companies with known safety violations and legal troubles?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Under work health and safety (WHS) laws, NSW businesses have a positive duty to take all reasonable steps to eliminate or minimise risks to health and safety.

Marda Dandhi

(52) What action did you take against the CFMEU after the union targeted workers of the Indigenous construction firm Marda Dandhi- which led to the suicide of a 19-year-old Indigenous man after his first day on a CFMEU building site?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

These events took place in Victoria.

Following allegations against the CFMEU in NSW, the government took immediate steps to:

- suspend the NSW CFMEU Construction and General Division's affiliation to the NSW Labor Party, to stop any donations or affiliation fees, and to appoint an independent administrator to the branch
- ask the Commonwealth Government to review Enterprise Bargaining Agreements in NSW which the CFMEU is party to, and
- refer all allegations of inappropriate behaviour on NSW construction sites to the Construction Compliance Unit within the Industrial Relations Branch of the Premier's Department.

Gig Workers

(53) Will gig workers who are covered by the new federal regulated workers legislation also be able to challenge their deactivation under the proposed NSW reforms?

(54) What modelling or research has the Government undertaken to understand the number of gig workers in the transport industry in NSW?

(55) How many gig workers in the transport sector will benefit from the NSW Government's plans to expand Chapter 6?

(56) How many gig workers in the transport sector will benefit from the NSW Government's plans to expand Chapter 6 once federal minimum standards are established?

(57) What analysis has the Government undertaken of the costs to platforms and industry as a result of expanding Chapter 6?

(a) Noting the same platforms will likely be captured under the recent federal reforms, why does the Government believe these costs are justified?

(58) The Government mentioned that a comprehensive stakeholder engagement strategy is still being developed and that it will undertake extensive consultation and seek feedback before finalising details of the proposed Chapter 6 changes. What is the Government's proposed timing for this comprehensive consultation?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Legislation to amend the existing Chapter 6 provisions of the *Industrial Relations Act 1996* (NSW) is yet to be introduced. The Government has an

election commitment to expand the current application of Chapter 6 provisions of the *Industrial Relations Act 1996* to cover gig workers in the transport sector.

Advice on changes to Chapter 6 provisions is cabinet in confidence.

Other Questions

(59) Can the Minister explain why allied health providers servicing the Workcover scheme are reimbursed at 78c/km when the Allied Health Award (MA00027) rate is 99c/km, and as a consequence allied health professionals or their clinics are paid 21c/km below the award rate.

(60) Does the Minister agree, injured workers from rural and remote NSW, are disproportionately disadvantaged by the Workcover scheme paying travel reimbursement for allied health providers under the Award rate.

ANSWER:

The Workcover scheme was abolished by the former Liberal-National government in 2015.

(61) Will the travel reimbursement for Exercise Physiologists and Physiotherapists be restored to the Award rate which reimburses practitioners delivering home and community care and optimally supports injured workers return to productive work?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

This question is better directed to the Ministry of Health.

(62) Can the Minister undertake to seek an explanation from SIRA why they haven't reviewed the requirement for a GP referral to access an Accredited Exercise Physiologist service to facilitate timely, effective treatment of injured workers.

(63) Can the Minister recommend to SIRA they meet with Exercise and Sport Science Australia to review the current requirement for a medical practitioner referral to access Accredited Exercise Physiology treatment of injured workers.

(64) Is the Minister aware that SIRA have not addressed the scope of practice for Exercise Physiologist treating complex mental health conditions which is evidence-based practice. This is restricting appropriate treatment and limiting treatment sessions approvals and care for NSW's first responders and critical workers who are seeking to recover and manage complex pathology such as, but not limited to PTSD.

ANSWER:

I am advised:

These questions are better directed to the Minister for Customer Service and/or SIRA.

Cabinet Sub Committees

(65) 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.

Training

(66) 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.

Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports

(67) 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.

(68) 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:

Annual reports are prepared and printed as per the NSW Treasury Policy and Guidelines – Annual Reporting Requirements TPG23-10.

ETU membership

(69) 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.

Parliamentary Secretary

(70) 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.

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

ANSWER:

No.

(72) 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-OfficeHandbook.pdf>.

Department(s)/Agency(s) in Portfolio

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

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Cabinet Office publishes a Governance Arrangements Chart containing information about Ministers, NSW Government agencies established under Schedule 1 to the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013* and State owned corporations established under Schedule 5 to the *State Owned Corporations Act 1989*.

The Governance Arrangements Chart may be accessed via The Cabinet Office's website at www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/noindex/2024-08/20240807-Governance-Arrangements-Chart.pdf.

The *Government Sector Employment Act 2013*, and Administrative Arrangements Orders made under Part 7 of the Constitution Act 1902, are available on the NSW Legislation website (www.legislation.nsw.gov.au).

Former Ministerial Employees

(74) 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.

Signal

(75) Are you on Signal?

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

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Like the former Liberal-National 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*.

Ministerial Staff – Local Government Councillors

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

(77) 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).

Union membership fees

(78) 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.

ETU meetings

(79) 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 Premier's Memorandum M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information, 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>).

Workplace complaints

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

(81) 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.

Paper shredder

(82) 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.

State Records Act

(83) 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 Ministers' Office Handbook provides guidance in relation to these obligations to assist each Minister's office.

The Premier's Department and the Cabinet Office also provide guidance, advice, training and support on these obligations for all Ministers' offices.

Camera, video recorder and microphones

(84) 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:

Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Communication Devices Policy provides guidance on the use, loss, theft, and return of communication devices provided for business purposes.

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

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

Legal Costs

(85) 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:

Legal costs are included in the Other Operating Expenses of an agency's financial statement and further categorised in the note to Other Operating Expenses in accordance with the guidance in TPG24-05 Policy and Guidelines: Financial Reporting Code for NSW General Government Sector Agencies. Agencies will include legal costs as a separate line item if it is considered a material expense for the agency.

Union membership

(86) Are you a member of a union?

(a) If yes, what union?

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.

Advertising

(87) 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.

Catering

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

(89) 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.

Senior Executive Drivers

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

ANSWER:

I am advised:

None.

CFMEU membership

(91) 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.

Speeches

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

(93) 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.

Hard hats and/or vests

(94) 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 the *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.

Efficiency dividends

(95) 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.

Gin

(96) 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>.

Ministerial Advisers

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

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

ANSWER:

I am advised:

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

Ministerial disclosures to The Cabinet Office

(99) 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.

Stationery

(100) 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.

(101) 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.

GIPA Applications / Standing Order 52 – Ministerial Office

(102) 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.

(103) 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.

Police Commissioner Gin

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

ANSWER:

I am advised:

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| No. |
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| Qantas Chairman's Club |
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| <p>(105) 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?</p> |
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| ANSWER: |
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| I am advised: |
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| <p>The Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 1983 (Regulation) sets out Members' obligations to disclose relevant pecuniary and other interests in periodic returns to Parliament.</p> |
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| <p>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:</p> |
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| <p>"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."</p> |
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| <p>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.</p> |
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| <p>Relevant disclosures have been made to the Cabinet Office and to the NSW Parliament.</p> |
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| E-Toll |
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| <p>(106) Does your ministerial vehicle have an E-Toll? (a) If yes, is expenditure paid by you by your ministerial budget?</p> |
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| ANSWER: |
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| I am advised: |
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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.

Department(s)/Agency(s) Gifts and Hospitality Register

(107) 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:

The standards for publishing gifts and hospitality are outlined in the Public Service Commissioner's Direction No. 1 of 2022 – Managing Gifts and Benefits: Minimum Standards.

Ministerial visits

(108) 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-and-agencies/premiers-department/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-domestic-travel>.

Ministerial Code of Conduct

(109) 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*.

TikTok

(110) 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.pdf>

CFMEU meetings

(111) 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>).

Credit Cards

(112) 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.

(113) 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 standard procurement arrangements of the NSW Government.

Ministerial Vehicles and Driving Offences

(114) 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.

(115) 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.

Department(s)/agency(s) desk or office

(116) 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.

Land audit – Department(s)/Agency(s)

(117) 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 NSW Government has been conducting an audit of government land to identify surplus sites that are suitable for social, affordable or market housing.

The locations of an initial set of 44 sites identified by the audit will be made public over the coming weeks and months as they are transferred to housing delivery agencies or brought to market.

Mobile phones

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

(119) 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.

Consultants

(120) 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:

Consultancy expenditure, including details of consulting engagements over \$50,000, are included in the annual reports of agencies and departments in accordance with the NSW Treasury Policy and Guidelines TPG23-10 - Annual Reporting Requirements.

Ministerial staff disclosure of gifts and/or hospitality

(121) 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.

(122) 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.

Department(s)/Agency(s) Travel

(123) 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.

(124) 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:

Charter air flights are contained within the travel costs category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Department / Agency's Annual Report. This is in accordance with the Treasury Direction TD23-11 Annual reporting requirements.

(125) 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:

Domestic travel is contained within the travel costs category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Department / Agency's Annual Report. This is in accordance with the Treasury Direction TD23-11 Annual reporting requirements.

Official travel is taken in accordance with the NSW Government travel policy.

(126) 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:

The NSW Government Travel and Transport Policy provides a framework for all NSW Government travelling employees and covers all official air and land travel by public officials using public money. Further information in relation to the Policy can be found here: <https://www.info.buy.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/travel-andtransport-policy> .

(127) 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:

The items are contained within the travel costs category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Department / Agency's Annual Report.

This is in accordance with the Treasury Direction TD23-11 Annual reporting requirements.

Cabinet documents

(128) 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.

Website usage

(129) 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.

(130) 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.

Department(s)/Agency(s) Employees

(131) 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:

The number of senior executives is publicly reported within Annual Reports.

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

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The remuneration of public service senior executives is published in the respective Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports.

(133) 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:

i. Voluntary?
 ii. Forced?
 (b) What was the total cost of all redundancies in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Redundancies are published in the respective Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports under employee related expenses.

Media releases and statements

(134) 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.

GIPA Applications – Department(s)/Agency(s)

(135) 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.

