

Questions from Dr Amanda Cohn MLC

| Psychiatrist resignations | |
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| 1 | <p>Have you met with staff specialist psychiatrists who have resigned from NSW Health or their representatives?</p> <p>(a) If so, when, and who attended the meeting?</p> <p>(b) If not, why not?</p> <p>(c) If not, will you?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Premier's Diary is published in line with Memorandum 2015-05 and is published on the NSW Government website.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Moree Place-Based Initiatives | |
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| 2 | On 12 March 2025, your government announced as part of the 'placed-based response in Moree' a 6-month Action Plan for Moree. Has this plan been completed? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: Please refer to the statements on Page 49 of the uncorrected transcript provided by The Secretary of the Premier's Department, Mr Simon Draper and Deputy Secretary, Delivery and Engagement Group, Premier's Department, Ms Kate Meagher. | |

Questions from Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Moree Place-Based Initiatives | |
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| 3 | Is the action plan publicly available? (a) If so, when will it be released? (b) If not, why not? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: Please refer to the statements on Page 49 of the uncorrected transcript provided by The Secretary of the Premier's Department, Mr Simon Draper and Deputy Secretary, Delivery and Engagement Group, Premier's Department, Ms Kate Meagher. | |

Questions from Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

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| Moree Place-Based Initiatives | |
| 4 | What actions does the plan recommend? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: Please refer to the statements on Page 49 of the uncorrected transcript provided by The Secretary of the Premier's Department, Mr Simon Draper and Deputy Secretary, Delivery and Engagement Group, Premier's Department, Ms Kate Meagher. | |

Questions from Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Moree Place-Based Initiatives | |
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| 5 | Will the government be reporting on the action plan? (a) If so, when? (b) If not, why not? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: Please refer to the statements on Page 49 of the uncorrected transcript provided by The Secretary of the Premier's Department, Mr Simon Draper and Deputy Secretary, Delivery and Engagement Group, Premier's Department, Ms Kate Meagher. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| CFMEU meetings | |
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| 6 | Given ministerial diary disclosures do not include all meetings and provide exceptions to disclosures, since 28 March 2023, have you met with the CFMEU? |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised;</p> <p>In accordance with the Premier's Memorandum <i>M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information</i>, all Ministers publish extracts from their diaries, summarising details of scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations, third-party lobbyists and individuals.</p> <p>Ministers are not required to disclose details of the following meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Premier's Memorandum), and • matters for which there is an overriding public interest against disclosure. <p>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)</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

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| ETU meetings | |
| 7 | Given ministerial diary disclosures do not include all meetings and provide exceptions to disclosures, since 28 March 2023, have you met with the ETU? |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised;</p> <p>In accordance with the Premier's Memorandum <i>M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information</i>, all Ministers publish extracts from their diaries, summarising details of scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations, third-party lobbyists and individuals.</p> <p>Ministers are not required to disclose details of the following meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Premier's Memorandum), and • matters for which there is an overriding public interest against disclosure. <p>Ministers' diary disclosures are published quarterly on The Cabinet Office's website.</p> <p>(https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures)</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Ministerial disclosures to The Cabinet Office | |
|--|---|
| 8 | 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. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Department(s)/Agency(s) Employees | |
|---|---|
| 9 | <p>How many redundancies were processed by each Department(s)/agency(s) within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?</p> <p>(a) Of these redundancies, how many were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Voluntary? ii. Forced? <p>(b) What was the total cost of all redundancies in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?</p> <p>(c) On what page are redundancies published in the respective Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Redundancies are published in the respective Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports under employee related expenses.</p> <p>Published Annual reports can be accessed on respective Departmental websites.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Department(s)/Agency(s) Employees | |
|---|--|
| 10 | <p>Are any secretaries, deputy secretaries, executive directors or directors employed by the Premiers Department or Cabinet Office former staff members of former labor ministers and or premiers?</p> <p>a. If so, who?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Under the <i>Government Sector Employment Act 2013</i>, the Secretary of a Department primarily exercises the employer functions of the Government in relation to departmental employees. Secretaries are not subject to the direction or control of a Minister in the exercise of those functions.</p> <p>Government sector employees are required to perform their duties in an apolitical and impartial manner, in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Conduct for NSW government sector employees and the Ethical Framework for the Government Sector under the <i>Government Sector Employment Act 2013</i>. Employees of the Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office must also comply with the Departments' Code of Conduct.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports | |
|---|---|
| 11 | On what date were the annual report(s) from 2023-24 for each department / agency in your portfolio published? |
| ANSWER: The annual reports were tabled in accordance with the requirements of the <i>Government Sector Finance Act 2018</i> . | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports | |
|--|--|
| 12 | <p>Were the annual report(s) from 2023-24 for each department / agency in your portfolio printed?</p> <p>(a) If yes, what was the printing cost(s) for each department / agency?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Annual reports should be prepared in accordance with the NSW Treasury Policy and Guidelines <i>TPG23-10 Annual Reporting Requirements</i>. TP23-10 also requires that an agency's annual report contain the total external costs incurred in the production of the report, including printing costs.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports | |
|---|--|
| 13 | <p>Did the annual report(s) from 2023-24 for each department / agency in your portfolio use in part or full an external production / body / consultant to draft?</p> <p>(a) If yes, what was the cost(s) for each department / agency?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>In accordance with the Treasury Policy and Guidelines TPG23-10 Annual Reporting Requirements, an agency's annual report must contain the total external costs incurred in the production of the report, including fees for consultants.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports | |
|---|--|
| 14 | In what month will the 2024-25 annual report(s) 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 <i>Government Sector Finance Act 2018</i> and Treasurer's Direction 23-11 Annual reporting requirements. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports | |
|--|---|
| 15 | Will the 2024-25 annual report(s) for the department / agency in your portfolio include a printed copy? (a) If yes, how much is budgeted for printing in 2024-25 for each department / agency? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: Annual reports should be prepared in accordance with the NSW Treasury Policy and Guidelines TPG23-10 Annual Reporting Requirements. TP23-10 also requires that an agency's annual report contain the total external costs incurred in the production of the report, including printing costs. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| State Records Act | |
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| 16 | <p>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?</p> <p>(a) If yes, when?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Ministers' Office Handbook provides guidance in relation to recordkeeping obligations under the <i>State Records Act 1998</i>.</p> <p>The Cabinet Office also provide guidance, advice, training and support on these obligations for Ministers' offices.</p> <p>Further information is available on State Records NSW's website (www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dciths/state-records-nsw)</p> <p>I expect all Ministers' offices to comply with their obligations under the <i>State Records Act 1998</i>.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Advertising | |
|--|---|
| 17 | On what page is advertising published in the respective Department(s)/Agency(s) annual report(s)? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: Annual reports are published on the website of the relevant department or agency and are also held by the Parliamentary Library. Department and agency expenditure is also published at data.nsw.gov.au Agency expenditure must be reported in accordance with TD23-11 Annual reporting requirements and TPG23-10 Annual Reporting Requirements. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Department(s)/Agency(s) Gifts and Hospitality Register | |
|--|---|
| 18 | <p>Does your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) have a gifts and/or hospitality register?</p> <p>(a) If yes, is it available online?</p> <p>i. If yes, what is the website URL</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Premier's Department gifts and hospitality register is available at: https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/access-to-information/gifts-and-hospitality-register</p> <p>The Cabinet Office gifts and hospitality register is available at: https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/gifts-and-hospitality-register#:~:text=The%20Cabinet%20Office%20publishes%20its, Gifts%20and%20Benefits%3A%20Minimum%20Standards</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Ministerial staff disclosure of gifts and/or hospitality | |
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| 19 | Does your ministerial office keep a register of gifts and/or hospitality for staff to make disclosures? (a) If yes, what is the website URL |
| 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. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Ministerial staff disclosure of gifts and/or hospitality | |
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| 20 | <p>Have any staff members in your office been the recipient of any free hospitality?</p> <p>(a) What was the total value of the hospitality received?</p> <p>(b) Are these gifts of hospitality declared?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Ministerial Code of Conduct | |
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| 21 | Since 28 March 2023, have you breached the Ministerial Code of Conduct? (a) If yes, what was the breach? |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>All Ministers are expected to comply with their obligations under the NSW Ministerial Code of Conduct (Ministerial Code) at all times.</p> <p>The Ministerial Code sets the ethical standards of behaviour required of Ministers and establishes practices and procedures to assist with compliance.</p> <p>Among other matters, the Ministerial Code requires Ministers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>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 <i>Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988</i>.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Credit Cards | |
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| 22 | <p>Have you ever been issued with a credit card by a NSW Government department(s) and/or agency(s) since 28 March 2023?</p> <p>(a) If yes, under what circumstance?</p> <p>(b) If yes, what items and expenditure was undertaken?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Where a 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.</p> <p>Costs associated with overseas travel are published on the NSW Government website in line with M2015-05.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Credit Cards | |
|---|---|
| 23 | Do public servants in your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) been issued with department/agency credit cards? |
| 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. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

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| Credit Cards | |
| 24 | If yes, what is the website URL of the credit card policy? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: The Purchasing Card Policy for the Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office is available on the Premier's Department's website: https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/access-to-information/policy-documents | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Department(s)/agency(s) desk or office | |
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| 25 | 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. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Senior Executive Drivers | |
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| 26 | As at 1 February 2025, how many senior executives in your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) have a driver? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: No senior executives employed by the Premier's Department or The Cabinet Office have a driver. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

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| In office | |
| 27 | Has the Premier's Office or any Ministerial staff communicated with Labor Party campaign strategists, polling companies, or political consultants using government email, phone lines or government mobile phones, or IT systems? |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Network Services Policy (available online in the Ministers' Office Handbook) confirms that computers, Ministers' Network, mobile devices, internet, remote access, email and any other type of service used for official communications must be used in a lawful, appropriate and ethical way.</p> <p>The NSW Office Holder's Code of Conduct applies to staff employed by Ministers' (known as political office holders) under Part 2 of the <i>Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013</i> (NSW) (MOPS Act).</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| GIPA Applications – Ministerial Office | |
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| 28 | <p>Has your Ministerial Office received a GIPA Application(s) since 28 March 2023?</p> <p>(a) If yes, how many?</p> <p>(b) If yes, what is the website URL of the disclosure log?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>GIPA statistics for Ministers' offices are published in the annual reports of the Department of Communities and Justice.</p> <p>The Premier's Office disclosure log is available on the Premier's Department website.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| GIPA Applications – Department(s)/Agency(s) | |
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| 29 | 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) |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Under the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i>:</p> <p>An agency is 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.</p> <p>The office of the Premier complies with the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i>.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| GIPA Applications – Department(s)/Agency(s) | |
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| 30 | Since the 2023 election, how many complaints have been made to the Premier’s Department regarding the handling of GIPA requests, including concerns about processing times, excessive costs, refusals, and claims that the department cannot accept card payments for fees? |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Under the <i>Government Information (Information Commissioner) Act 2009</i> any person may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner about the action or inaction of a NSW government agency in exercising the agency’s functions under an “Information Act”, including the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i>.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| GIPA Applications – Department(s)/Agency(s) | |
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| 31 | Has there been an increase in complaints since the Minns Labor Government took office, and what steps—if any—has the department taken to address concerns about transparency and accessibility in the GIPA process? |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>NSW Government departments are required to comply with the provisions of the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i>.</p> <p>Under the <i>Government Information (Information Commissioner) Act 2009</i> NSW (GIIC Act) any person may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner about the action or inaction of a NSW government agency in exercising the agency’s functions under an “Information Act”, including the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i>.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| GIPA Applications – Department(s)/Agency(s) | |
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| 32 | Has the Premier’s Department or Cabinet Office ever been directed—either formally or informally—to delay, obstruct, or slow-walk GIPA (Government Information Public Access) requests from the Opposition, media and or members of the public? |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Under the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i>, an agency is 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.</p> <p>The office of the Premier complies with the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i>.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| GIPA Act – Disclosure Log Website URL | |
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| 33 | What is the website URL for the GIPA Act disclosure log each of your portfolio department(s) / agency(s)? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/disclosure-log https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/access-to-information/premiers-department-disclosure-log | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

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| TikTok | |
| 34 | Are you on TikTok? (a) If yes, do you access TikTok from a NSW Government device? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: The Circular DCS-2025-01 Cyber Security NSW Directive - Restricted Applications List advises how NSW Government agencies are required to appropriately manage risks to NSW Government information on government-issued devices, or personal devices that are used for government business. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

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| Signal | |
| 35 | <p>Are you and/or your ministerial staff on Signal?</p> <p>(a) If yes, do you and/or your ministerial staff access Signal from a NSW Government device?</p> <p>(b) If yes, does Signal comply with the State Records Act?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Like the former Coalition Government, a range of communications are used by the NSW Government.</p> <p>I comply with the <i>State Records Act 1998</i> and I expect all staff members to comply with their obligations under the <i>State Records Act 1998</i>.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Training | |
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| 36 | <p>Since 28 March 2023, have you had training from an external stakeholder that included an invoice and payment paid for using your ministerial budget?</p> <p>(a) If yes, what is the description of training?</p> <p>(b) If yes, how much?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Ministers have undertaken a program of Ministerial induction training.</p> <p>Ministers have undertaken training on the Respectful Workplace Policy.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Ministerial Office Budgets are managed in accordance with the Ministers' Office Handbook.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Cabinet documents | |
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| 37 | 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 - <i>Maintaining Confidentiality of Cabinet Documents and Other Cabinet Conventions</i> . The Premier's Memorandum 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. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Parliamentary Secretary | |
|---|--|
| 38 | 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. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

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| Parliamentary Secretary | |
| 39 | Does your Parliamentary Secretary have a desk in your ministerial office? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: No | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Parliamentary Secretary | |
|---|--|
| 40 | Has your Parliamentary Secretary ever used your Ministerial Vehicle? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: The Ministers' Office Handbook provides that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the Premier's Department will provide each Minister with a designated vehicle, which may be used by other drivers nominated by the Minister from time to time.• the Premier's Department transport services may be used by Parliamentary Secretaries for official business trips in connection with their duties as Parliamentary Secretaries, with costs paid from the Ministers' office budget. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management | |
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| 41 | 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. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management | |
|---|--|
| 42 | <p>Is or has the Premier and or Ministers staff using/used WhatsApp to send statements to journalists versus not publishing on the website?</p> <p>a) If yes, why?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>State records are a vital public asset, and access to Government information is essential to maintaining public trust in government. The Premier's Office, the Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office take their record keeping responsibilities very seriously.</p> <p>Ministerial staff are required to manage and store records in line with the <i>State Records Act 1998</i> and supporting policies, including the <i>Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Network Services Policy</i> and section 9 of the NSW Ministers Office Handbook, <i>Managing records and information</i>.</p> <p>A range of digital systems have been approved for use and may be utilised where there is a valid business requirement. This has been established practice under successive governments.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management | |
|---|---|
| 43 | <p>Before the 2023 election, the then-NSW Opposition—now the Minns Labor Government—had access to NSW Coalition Government-funded Meltwater alerts. Can the Premier’s Department confirm which Deputy Secretary, Executive Directors or Directors, in their role leading Communications within the then-Premier and Cabinet, approved this Meltwater arrangement while Labor was in Opposition?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please refer to the responses to the Budget Estimates Questions on Notice: https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/other/19251/1.%20Answers%20to%20questions%20on%20notice%20-%2021%20February%202024%20-%20Budget%20Estimates%20Premier.pdf</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management | |
|--|---|
| 44 | After the change of government in 2023, why did rules change to stop the now-Opposition of the same access? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: Please refer to the responses to the Budget Estimates Questions on Notice: https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/other/19251/1.%20Answers%20to%20questions%20on%20notice%20-%2021%20February%202024%20-%20Budget%20Estimates%20Premier.pdf | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management | |
|--|---|
| 45 | <p>Has the Premier's Office or any Ministerial Office directed Department Secretaries or Deputy Secretaries and or their teams to use third-party apps such as WhatsApp and Signal for official communications instead of email?</p> <p>a. If so, what is the justification for this shift?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Public service employees are not subject to the direction of ministerial staff, as noted in the <i>NSW Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct</i>.</p> <p>State records are a vital public asset, and access to Government information is essential to maintaining public trust in government. The Premier's Office, the Premier's Department and the Cabinet Office take their record keeping responsibilities very seriously.</p> <p>Departmental staff are required to manage and store records in line with the <i>State Records Act 1998</i> and supporting policies, including the <i>Acceptable Use of Digital Technology Policy</i>, the <i>Records Management Policy</i>, and the <i>Official Use of Social Media Policy</i>.</p> <p>A range of digital systems have been approved for use and may be utilised where there is a valid business requirement. This has been established practice under successive governments.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management

46

Has any department secretary, deputy secretary, executive director or director or related teams, at any stage since the 2023 election, directed department staffers to use third-party apps such as WhatsApp or Signal for communications with team members, Ministerial staff, or the Premier's Office?

- a. If so, why was this done instead of using the official government email network?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

State records are a vital public asset, and access to Government information is essential to maintaining public trust in government. The Premier's Office, the Premier's Department and the Cabinet Office take their record keeping responsibilities very seriously.

Departmental staff are required to manage and store records in line with the *State Records Act 1998* and supporting policies, including the *Acceptable Use of Digital Technology Policy*, the *Records Management Policy*, and the *Official Use of Social Media Policy*.

A range of digital systems have been approved for use and may be utilised where there is a valid business requirement. This has been established practice under successive governments.

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition**Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management****47**

Have Premier's Department staff ever been required to chaperone or introduce guests to the media—particularly in situations where this should be handled by the Premier's Media Team? For example, was it appropriate for a Deputy Secretary to personally introduce Brett and Belinda Beasley to the media, despite them being official guests of the NSW Premier?

a. Why were department staff involved?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The NSW Government is grateful for the advocacy of Brett and Belinda Beasley, who have worked tirelessly to improve community safety across Australia in the wake of their son Jack's tragic death.

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management | |
|---|---|
| 48 | How many media releases and statements has the Premier's Department prepared or issued on behalf of the Premier's Office and Ministerial Offices each week, each month, and each year since the Minns Labor Government took office? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: Government Media releases can be found at www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases The Department of Customer Service (DCS) is responsible for managing www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases and the publication of media releases. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management | |
|--|--|
| 49 | How many speeches has the Premier's Department written for the Premier's Office and other Ministerial Offices each week, each month, and each year since the Minns Labor Government took office? |
| 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. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

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| Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management | |
| 50 | How many staff are currently employed in the Premier's Department Communications Team? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: Premier's Department staff numbers are included in the Annual Report. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management | |
|--|---|
| 51 | In the Premier's Department Communications Team how many of these are executive-level positions, and what are the specific bands for each executive staff member? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: The number of senior executives is publicly reported within Annual Reports. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management | |
|--|---|
| 52 | Has there been any increase in staffing levels or executive appointments in the Premiers Department Communications team since the Minns Labor Government took office? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: The number of senior executives is publicly reported within Annual Reports. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management | |
|---|---|
| 53 | How many staff are currently employed as speechwriters within the Premier's Department? |
| 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. Premier's Department staff numbers are included in the Annual Report. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management | |
|---|--|
| 54 | How many staff are currently employed in internal communications roles across the Premier's Department and the Cabinet Office? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: Premier's Department staff numbers are included in the Annual Report. The Cabinet Office staff numbers are included in the Annual Report. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management | |
|--|---|
| 55 | Can the department provide a breakdown of these staff by role, band, and function? Has the number of internal communications staff increased since the Minns Labor Government took office, and if so, what is the justification for this expansion? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: Premier's Department staff numbers including senior executives are included in the Annual Report. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management | |
|--|---|
| 56 | <p>How many brochures, leaflets, documents, and other materials has the Premier's Department's Creative Studio produced since the Minns Labor Government took office?</p> <p>a. Can the department provide a full breakdown, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The total number of materials created and their purpose ii. The number of hours spent each week and each month on these projects iii. The total cost associated with producing these materials, including design, printing, and distribution |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Premier's Department Communications Team Branch provides media, communications, logistical and delivery support for the Premier's engagement with the community and international dignitaries, formal and ceremonial occasions, and significant events such as memorials.</p> <p>NSW Government digital products and services need to meet accessibility standards. The Premier's Department Communications Team ensures these obligations are met.</p> <p>Department and agency staff may contribute to factual information for a range of materials as part of their duties in line with longstanding practices in place under successive governments.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management | |
|--|---|
| 57 | Has the Premier's Department ever provided coaching, training, or media prep sessions for the Premier or Ministers ahead of media appearances, interviews, Question Time or Budget Estimates? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: The Premier's Department provide factual information as part of their duties in line with longstanding practices in place under successive governments. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management | |
|---|---|
| 58 | <p>Have any Premier's Department communications team staff provided background briefings or off-the-record information to journalists on government matters, rather than this being handled by Premier's Office or Ministerial staff?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. If so, what, and why?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Government sector employees are required to perform their duties in an apolitical and impartial manner, in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Conduct for NSW government sector employees and the Ethical Framework for the Government Sector under the <i>Government Sector Employment Act 2013</i>.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management | |
|---|---|
| 59 | <p>Have any Premier's Department or Cabinet Office Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Executive Directors, Directors or members of the department's communications team monitored, listened in, watched for announcements or attended the NSW State Labor Conference since the Minns Labor Government took office?</p> <p>(a) If so, what staff, and what is the justification?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Government sector employees are required to perform their duties in an apolitical and impartial manner, in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Conduct for NSW government sector employees and the Ethical Framework for the Government Sector under the <i>Government Sector Employment Act 2013</i>.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management | |
|---|--|
| 60 | <p>Have any Premier’s Department or Cabinet Office Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Executive Directors, Directors or members of the department’s communications team shared on email, or any third party messaging apps (such as WhatsApp, Signal) any documents, announcements from any State Labor Conferences since the 2023 Election?</p> <p>(a) If so, what staff, what was shared and what was the justification?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Government sector employees are required to perform their duties in an apolitical and impartial manner, in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Conduct for NSW government sector employees and the Ethical Framework for the Government Sector under the <i>Government Sector Employment Act 2013</i>.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management | |
|---|---|
| 61 | <p>Will any Premier's Department or Cabinet Office Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Executive Directors, Directors or members of the department's communications team be monitoring, listening in or attending the NSW State Labor Conference this year?</p> <p>(a) If so, what staff, what is the justification?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Government sector employees are required to perform their duties in an apolitical and impartial manner, in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Conduct for NSW government sector employees and the Ethical Framework for the Government Sector under the <i>Government Sector Employment Act 2013</i>.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management

62

When a media inquiry comes into the email address media@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au what is the process to answer these inquiries, are emails hidden when they come in, who answers these emails.

- (a) Have journalists complained on answers and response duration times?
- (b) What executive level staff are across the inquiries given a Director of Communications exits?
- (c) Is the Secretary, Deputy Secretary and Executive Directors copied into email correspondence when a media outlet makes an inquiry.

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The NSW Public Service takes its responsibility of upholding the core values of integrity, trust, accountability and service extremely seriously. That includes information provided to media and the public.

Long established practices exist for the dissemination of information to the media and the public including approval protocols across all NSW government agencies.

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management | |
|---|---|
| 63 | <p>Has the Premier's Department Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Executive Directors or Directors directed any of its staff to monitor social media accounts of Opposition MPs, journalists, or political commentators?</p> <p>(a) If so, who authorised this, what is the justification?</p> <p>(b) Has iSentia been set up this way?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i. If so, who authorised this, what is the justification?</p> <p>(c) Who are the political figures that the Premiers Department and or Cabinet Office are monitoring outside the caretaker period?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i. What is being monitored?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Government sector employees are required to perform their duties in an apolitical and impartial manner, in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Conduct for NSW government sector employees and the Ethical Framework for the Government Sector under the <i>Government Sector Employment Act 2013</i>.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management | |
|--|---|
| 64 | <p>How much has the Premier's Department and or the Cabinet Office spent on external consultants, PR firms, and advertising campaigns promoting government policies since the Minns Labor Government took office</p> <p>(a) Please provide a list of consultants/agencies/firms engaged</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i. And the amounts billed</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">ii. The Subject matters</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Department expenditure is published in annual reports. This includes consultancy expenditure (and details of consulting engagements over \$50,000), which is included in the annual reports of the Departments in accordance with the NSW Treasury Policy and Guidelines TPG23-10 - Annual Reporting Requirements.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management | |
|--|--|
| 65 | <p>How much has the Premier's Department spent on CCH Political Alerts since the Minns Labor Government took office?</p> <p>(a) Can the department provide a full breakdown, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The total cost of subscriptions or services ii. The number of staff or Ministerial offices receiving these alerts iii. Whether these alerts are being used for public service purposes or for political monitoring iv. Has there been an increase in spending on CCH Political Alerts under this government, and if so, what is the justification for using taxpayer dollars to fund political intelligence gathering? |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Media alerts are provided to both Departmental staff and staff in Ministers Offices as has been the practice under successive governments.</p> <p>The cost is reported under Other Operating Expenses in the Premier's Department Annual Report.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Media releases, statements, media intelligence, media management | |
|---|--|
| 66 | <p>Does the Premier's Department (Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Executive Directors, Directors or any staff) actively send the Premier's and Ministerial staff media releases from the Opposition?</p> <p>(a) If so, when sending political media releases of the Opposition to the Premier's Office or Ministerial staff what is the justification for (Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Executive Directors, Directors or any staff) doing this who should be a-political for sending this?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Government sector employees are required to perform their duties in an apolitical and impartial manner, in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Conduct for NSW government sector employees and the Ethical Framework for the Government Sector under the <i>Government Sector Employment Act 2013</i>.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|---|--|
| 67 | <p>Have any staff within the Premier's Department and or Cabinet Office, at any level or in any role, engaged in political work, such as sharing the locations of Opposition members of parliament in chat groups (such as WhatsApp, Signal), Microsoft Teams, distributing opposition media releases, or other activities unrelated to their official job descriptions?</p> <p>(a) If so, what is/was their role and team in the department?</p> <p>(b) What is the justification?</p> <p>(c) Are these staff members, members of the labor party, or their family donors to the Labor Party?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Government sector employees are required to perform their duties in an apolitical and impartial manner, in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Conduct for NSW government sector employees and the Ethical Framework for the Government Sector under the <i>Government Sector Employment Act 2013</i>.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|---|---|
| 68 | Do job descriptions for departmental staff at any rank explicitly state that they should be tracking or sharing information on the Opposition, the opposition media releases, their movements, or political activities? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: The NSW public sector takes its responsibility of upholding the core values of integrity, trust, service and accountability extremely seriously. This includes with the recruitment and promotion of employees. All NSW government sector employees are required and expected to act ethically, lawfully and in the public interest. Role descriptions are developed in line with the Role Description Development Guidelines, which are available on the NSW Government website. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|--|---|
| 69 | <p>What is the total cost of the office renovations at 52 Martin Place for the Premier's Department and the Cabinet Office?</p> <p>(a) Can the department provide a detailed breakdown of these costs, including design, construction, furniture, and any associated consultancy fees</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Leasehold improvements for the Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office are reported within the Premier's Department Annual Report.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

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|--|---|
| Premier's Department | |
| 70 | When are staff expected to return to 52 Martin Place? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: As outlined in the NSW Government Sector workplace presence Circular, the default arrangement is to work principally in an approved workplace, office, or related work site. Government sector agencies are expected to have flexible work policies that meet reasonable requests of employees. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

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| Premier's Department | |
| 71 | Will staff be expected to work 5 days a week from a newly renovated office? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: As outlined in the NSW Government Sector workplace presence Circular, the default arrangement is to work principally in an approved workplace, office, or related work site. Government sector agencies are expected to have flexible work policies that meet reasonable requests of employees. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|--|--|
| 72 | <p>Are all staff of the Premiers Department and Cabinet Office employed actually living in NSW?</p> <p>a. If no, where are they are living, what are their working arrangements?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>There are currently no Cabinet Office or Premier's Department staff with overseas working arrangements, apart from those Investment NSW staff in international offices. Any staff working in other States, other than for intermittent travel, require approval from the Secretary of the relevant Department. Such arrangements are considered exceptional circumstances, are temporary and regularly reviewed, and staff are required to pay their own costs of travel.</p> <p>The Premier's Department Secretary is asking all NSW Government Department Secretaries to confirm that any interstate or offshore employee working arrangements are in line with the NSW Government circular on workplace presence, which requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any arrangements that involve conducting work from outside of NSW should be approved by head of the agency in consultation with the Secretary of the principal department related to the agency; and • approvals should be for a defined period and reviewed at regular intervals. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|--|--|
| 73 | <p>Can the Premier's Department and Cabinet Office provide a full breakdown of the number of staff currently working in-office:</p> <p>5 days per week</p> <p>4 days per week</p> <p>3 days per week</p> <p>2 days per week</p> <p>1 day per week</p> <p>How many staff are working remotely for the majority of their time?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>As outlined in the NSW Government Sector workplace presence Circular the default arrangement is to work principally in an approved workplace, office, or related work site. Government sector agencies are expected to have flexible work policies that meet reasonable requests of employees.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|--|---|
| 74 | <p>Can the Premier's Department provide a breakdown of how often Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Executive Directors, and Directors physically attend the office each week:</p> <p>5 days per week</p> <p>4 days per week</p> <p>3 days per week</p> <p>2 days per week</p> <p>1 day per week</p> <p>Please identify their bands and how many of these senior executives work remotely</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>As outlined in the NSW Government Sector workplace presence Circular the default arrangement is to work principally in an approved workplace, office, or related work site. Government sector agencies are expected to have flexible work policies that meet reasonable requests of employees.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|--|--|
| 75 | Has the Premier's Office or any Premier's Department Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Executive Directors or officers, or directors, directed staff to review or examine the driver logs of the former government at any time since the 2023 election? |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Premier's Department has been complying with its obligations to provide information regarding access to vehicle and drivers logs sought under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 and an order for papers made by the Legislative Council.</p> <p>The Premier's Office has been complying with its obligations to provide information regarding access to vehicle and drivers logs sought under an order for papers made by the Legislative Council.</p> <p>Premier's Memorandum M2022-11 2023 State Election – Caretaker Conventions attaches guidance on relevant conventions and practices that apply in the lead up to and following a State general election.</p> <p>The guidance states that, by convention, the Government of the day does not seek access to the State papers of a previous Government of a different political party, subject to certain exceptions (see section 8.4.2).</p> <p>I expect Ministers and agencies to comply with the guidance attached to M2022-11.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

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|--|---|
| Premier's Department | |
| 76 | If so, why was this done? Was this a legitimate operational requirement? a. Do job descriptions say that this is part of their role? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: See the answer above. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|---|---|
| 77 | <p>Has the Premier's Department always adhered strictly to merit-based appointments, or have political affiliations and leanings influenced hiring decisions – across all appointments and classifications/bands.</p> <p>a. Have any promotions taken place based on political affiliations, and or families being donors to the NSW Labor Party.</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Premier's Department adheres to the legislative requirements under the <i>Government Sector Employment Act 2013</i> relating to appointments.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|---|--|
| 78 | Can the department provide a full breakdown of senior appointments since the Minns Labor Government took office, including whether any individuals appointed to key roles have prior political connections to Labor ministers, MPs, or staffers? |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The employer functions of the Government for Public Service employees are generally exercised by Secretaries of departments, and the heads of executive agencies related to departments and separate Public Service agencies. Public Service appointments are subject to the merit-based employment processes set out in the <i>Government Sector Employment Act 2013</i>, the <i>Government Sector Employment Regulation 2014</i> and the <i>Government Sector Employment (General) Rules 2014</i>.</p> <p>Part 3 of the Government Sector Employment (General) Rules 2014 (GSE Rules) do not apply to Secretaries of Departments. For Secretaries of Departments, Clause 52(1) provides that before a person is appointed as the Secretary of a Department, a report relating to the proposed appointment is required to be provided to the Premier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in relation to the proposed appointment of the Secretary of the Premier's Department or Secretary of The Cabinet Office - by the Public Service Commissioner; or • in relation to any other Secretary appointment - by the Secretary of the Premier's Department or the Secretary of The Cabinet Office. <p>A report by the Secretary of the Premier's Department or Secretary of The Cabinet Office is to be prepared after consultation with the Public Service Commissioner and the senior Minister to whom the relevant Department is responsible (clause 52(2) of the GSE Rules). A report under clause 52(1) of the GSE Rules is not required in certain circumstances, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if the person is being re-appointed as the Secretary of a Department; or | |

- if the person was the Secretary of another Department at the time of the appointment or within 3 months before the appointment.

Under Premier's Memorandum M2021-07 Appointments to NSW Government boards and committees, all Ministerial appointments to NSW Government boards and committees are required to follow the Public Service Commissioner's Appointment Standards: Boards and Committees in the NSW Public Sector.

Under the Appointment Standards, appointments to NSW Government boards and committees are required to demonstrate compliance with four general principles, namely merit, fairness, diversity and integrity.

Appointments to NSW Government boards and committees must also comply with requirements set out in relevant legislation (where applicable), including requirements in relation to eligibility, qualifications and length of tenure.

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|---|---|
| 79 | <p>Has the screenshot function on mobile apps such as Outlook been disabled for Premier's Department or Cabinet Office staff?</p> <p>a. If so, when was this change implemented, who authorised it, and what was the justification?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Any changes to the screenshot function on mobile corporate apps must be authorised and implemented by the Department of Customer Service (who provide this service).</p> <p>Any change is to be implemented in accordance with the Australian Signals Directorate (ASD) blueprint guidelines to provide increased security of government information.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|---|--|
| 80 | How many staff are currently employed in the Premier's Department Protocol Team? How many of these are executive-level positions, and what are the specific bands for each executive staff member? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: Premier's Department staff numbers including senior executives are publicly reported in the Annual Report. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|--|--|
| 81 | Has there been any increase in staffing levels or executive appointments in the Premiers Office and The Cabinet Office since the Minns Labor Government took office? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: Ministerial Staffing numbers are proactively published on the NSW Government website. The Cabinet Office was reestablished on 1 July 2023. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|--|--|
| 82 | What has been the total overtime expenses incurred by the Premier's Department for key government guest visits, Australia Day events, VIVID, and other activities held outside normal business hours since the Minns Labor Government took office? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: Premier's Department staff are entitled to be paid overtime in accordance with the Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Reviewed Award 2009. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|---|---|
| 83 | <p>Have Department Secretaries or Deputy Secretaries ever been invited to or attended Premier's Office or Ministerial staff events, such as farewells, birthdays, or other office gatherings?</p> <p>a. If so, how frequently has this occurred and what for?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Government sector employees are required to perform their duties in an apolitical and impartial manner, in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Conduct for NSW government sector employees and the Ethical Framework for the Government Sector under the <i>Government Sector Employment Act 2013</i>.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|--|--|
| 84 | How much has the Premier's Department spent on smoking ceremonies, Welcome to Country events, and other cultural acknowledgments since the Minns Labor Government took office? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: It has been a longstanding practice, including under the former Liberal and National Governments that Welcome to Country rituals and Acknowledgements of Country protocols celebrate the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country. Incorporating these rituals into significant occasions signifies respect for Traditional Custodians and honours contemporary communities. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

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|--|--|
| Premier's Department | |
| 85 | Can the government provide a breakdown of costs, including payments to individual providers? |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Details for the period prior to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report 2022-23.</p> <p>Details for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 form part of the Premier's Department Annual Report.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|--|---|
| 86 | How many internal diversity-related groups, committees, and advisory bodies currently exist within the Premier's Department and the Cabinet Office? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: The Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office supports a workplace with people given opportunities to contribute to the Public Service from any background. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|--|---|
| 87 | What are the names, purposes, and membership structures of these groups? How much funding and resourcing has been allocated to them since the Minns Labor Government took office? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: The Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office supports a workplace with people given opportunities to contribute to the Public Service from any background. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|--|---|
| 88 | Do staff within the Premier's Department and Cabinet Office take time away from their core duties to participate in these internal diversity-related groups, committees, and advisory bodies? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: The Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office supports a workplace with people given opportunities to contribute to the Public Service from any background. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|--|--|
| 89 | How many staff are involved, how frequently do they participate, and what are their respective bands? Additionally, which executive-level staff members sponsor or oversee these groups? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: The Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office supports a workplace with people given opportunities to contribute to the Public Service from any background. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|--|---|
| 90 | How much staff time each week, month is spent away from their day-to-day jobs is spent in these groups? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: The Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office supports a workplace with people given opportunities to contribute to the Public Service from any background. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|--|---|
| 91 | What is the total cost of expense claims made by the Secretary, Deputy Secretaries, Executive Directors, and Directors within the Premier's Department and the Cabinet Office since the Minns Labor Government took office? |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office prepare annual financial statements in accordance with the <i>Government Sector Finance Act 2018</i>. The statements must present the agency's financial position, financial performance and cash flows.</p> <p>Expense claims are contained within the Other Operating Expenses note component of the audited financial statements within the Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office's Annual Reports. Expense claims are governed by general rules relating to procurement and financial delegations, the Purchasing Card Policy of the Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office along with other relevant government and Departmental policies, instructions, and related memoranda, including NSW Treasury policy TPP21-02 <i>Use and Management of NSW Government purchasing Cards</i>.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|--|---|
| 92 | Can the department provide a breakdown of these expenses, including categories of spending, specific costs incurred, and the bands of the staff involved? |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office prepare annual financial statements in accordance with the <i>Government Sector Finance Act 2018</i>. The statements must present the agency's financial position, financial performance and cash flows.</p> <p>Expense claims are contained within the Other Operating Expenses note component of the audited financial statements within the Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office's Annual Reports. Expense claims are governed by general rules relating to procurement and financial delegations, the Purchasing Card Policy of the Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office along with other relevant government and Departmental policies, instructions, and related memoranda, including NSW Treasury policy TPP21-02 <i>Use and Management of NSW Government purchasing Cards</i>.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|---|---|
| 93 | <p>How many staff within the Premier's Department and the Cabinet Office currently hold a NSW Government PCard (corporate card/credit card)?</p> <p>(a) Can the Department provide a full breakdown, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The roles and bands of staff issued with a PCard ii. The credit limit assigned to each card iii. The total amount spent on these PCards since the Minns Labor Government took office iv. A breakdown of purchases made on these cards v. The total amount of fees incurred for late payments |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised</p> <p>The use and management of purchasing (credit) cards for official purposes is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements of the NSW Government. Expenditures are contained within the Other Operating Expenses and Finance cost notes of the audited financial statements within the Premier's Department Annual Reports 2024.</p> <p>The Purchasing Card Policy for the Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office is available on the Premier's Department's website: https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/access-to-information/policy-documents</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|---|---|
| 94 | <p>How much money has the Premier's Department spent on diversity-themed lanyards, merchandise, and related materials since the Minns Labor Government took office?</p> <p>(a) Can the government provide a breakdown of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. The total expenditure on diversity lanyards and similar itemsii. The number of items purchased and their purposeiii. The suppliers used and procurement process followed |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The purchase of lanyards, merchandise, and related materials is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|---|---|
| 95 | <p>Has the Premier's Department or Cabinet Office set up any private or informal meeting spaces—either within government buildings or externally—for Ministerial staff to conduct sensitive discussions outside of official records?</p> <p>(a) If so, where, when, and why?"</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>State records are a vital public asset, and access to Government information is essential to maintaining public trust in government. The Premier's Department The Cabinet Office and Ministerial staff take their record keeping responsibilities very seriously.</p> <p>Ministerial staff are required to manage and store records in line with the <i>State Records Act 1998</i> and supporting policies, including the Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Network Services Policy and section 9 of the NSW Ministers' Office Handbook, Managing records and information.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|---|--|
| 96 | <p>Has the Premier's Department compiled or maintained any files, dossiers, or briefing notes on members of the Opposition, including personal background, social media activity, or media history?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) If so, who requested this information, for what purpose, and how does this align with the department's official responsibilities?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Government sector employees are required to perform their duties in an apolitical and impartial manner, in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Conduct for NSW government sector employees and the Ethical Framework for the Government Sector under the <i>Government Sector Employment Act 2013</i>.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|---|---|
| 97 | Has the Premier's Department engaged any external consultants, public relations firms, or social media strategists to advise on political messaging, media strategy, or crisis management for the Premier or Ministers? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: Government sector employees are required to perform their duties in an apolitical and impartial manner, in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Conduct for NSW government sector employees and the Ethical Framework for the Government Sector under the <i>Government Sector Employment Act 2013</i> . Information on consultancies is included in the Premier's Department annual report. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|--|--|
| 98 | <p>Has the Premier's Department ever arranged or funded private catering, fine dining, or exclusive hospitality for the Premier, Ministers, or their senior staff?</p> <p>(a) If so, what was the cost, which venues were used</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Government sector employees are required to perform their duties in an apolitical and impartial manner, in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Conduct for NSW government sector employees and the Ethical Framework for the Government Sector under the <i>Government Sector Employment Act 2013</i>. The Cabinet Office and Premier's Department Code of Conduct requires that public resources be used in an efficient, effective and prudent way.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|---|--|
| 99 | Has the Premier's Department and or Cabinet Office required any staff, contractors, or consultants to sign non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) relating to government operations, internal discussions, or projects since the Minns Labor Government took office? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: All Government officials have a duty to protect confidential or sensitive information that they acquire from third parties and members of the public in the course of their official functions. Non-disclosure agreements may be used where appropriate and necessary to protect the confidentiality of information in the public interest. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|---|---|
| 100 | <p>Has the Premier's Department or any of its senior executives ever used non-government email accounts, private messaging apps, or personal devices to discuss government business?</p> <p>a) If so, why and what matters were discussed. b) Is this in breach of government guidelines and rules.</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>State records are a vital public asset, and access to Government information is essential to maintaining public trust in government. The Premier's Department takes its record keeping responsibilities very seriously.</p> <p>Departmental staff are required to manage and store records in line with the <i>State Records Act 1998</i> and supporting policies, including the <i>Acceptable Use of Digital Technology Policy</i>, the <i>Records Management Policy</i>, and the <i>Official Use of Social Media Policy</i>.</p> <p>A range of digital systems have been approved for use and may be utilised where there is a valid business requirement. This has been established practice under successive governments.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|---|--|
| 101 | <p>Have any Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Executive Directors, or Directors within the Premier's Department or Cabinet office purchased alcohol for staff at events such as Christmas parties, internal office drinks, or other gatherings and then claimed these expenses back through the department?</p> <p>(a) If so, which band of the executive, how much and what was purchased?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Cabinet Office and Premier's Department Code of Conduct requires that public resources be used in an efficient, effective and prudent way. The Gifts and Hospitality Policy for the Departments applies to the purchase of alcohol for hospitality.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|--|--|
| 102 | <p>What is the formal relationship between the Premier's Department and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet?</p> <p>(a) How do their roles, responsibilities, and reporting lines differ?</p> <p>(b) Has the Premier's Department ever received direction—either formally or informally—From the Office of the NSW Premier to work with Office of the Prime Minister or any federal government agency?</p> <p>i) If so, what were the nature and purpose of these directions?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office commenced operations on 1 July 2023 as separate but complementary agencies at the centre of government. Australia's federal relations architecture is the primary formal mechanism for NSW to engage with the Commonwealth. This includes via National Cabinet, various Ministerial Councils, and the senior officials' forums that support these groups.</p> <p>The Cabinet Office is responsible for advancing NSW's interests at a national level through strategic advice to the Premier and Cabinet on intergovernmental matters. This includes engagement with the Commonwealth Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet through senior officials' forums.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|---|--|
| 103 | <p>Has any staff member within the Premier's Department—at any level—charged personal expenses to a government credit card, departmental account, or travel allowance, even if later repaid?</p> <p>(a) If so, what is their band and the nature of the charge and amount</p> <p>(b) Were they disciplined</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The use and management of purchasing (credit) cards for official purposes is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements of the NSW Government.</p> <p>The Premier's Department policy is available at: https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/noindex/2024-05/Purchasing-Card-Policy.pdf</p> <p>Internal processes for repayment of funds are in place should a staff member inadvertently charge personal expenses.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|---|--|
| 104 | <p>Has the Premier's Department (Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Executive Directors, or Directors within the Premier's Department or Cabinet office) ever provided briefings, inside information, or advanced notice of policy decisions to lobbying firms with direct links to the Labor Party?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Cabinet Office and the Premier's Department Code of Conduct requires all employees of the departments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to maintain the confidentiality of all official information held by the Departments that is not publicly available, that has not been published or that is not authorised for disclosure • not to disclose, access or use official information in an unauthorised way, including for their own or anyone else's personal benefit or advantage • to act impartially in the public interest when carrying out their public duties, including when being lobbied, or making decisions after being lobbied, by lobbyists. <p>The Premier's Memorandum M2019-02 NSW Lobbyists Code of Conduct imposes obligations on all NSW Government officials when engaging with lobbyists.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|---|--|
| 105 | How much floor space within the Premier's Department and Cabinet Office, including at 52 Martin Place, are currently leased or paid for but remain unused, underutilised, or occupied by staff who work remotely the majority of the time? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: As outlined in the NSW Government Sector workplace presence Circular the default arrangement is to work principally in an approved workplace, office, or related work site. Government sector agencies are expected to have flexible work policies that meet reasonable requests of employees. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|---|---|
| 106 | <p>Has the Premier's Department or Cabinet Office, Premier's Office or any Ministerial Office ever sought to influence or interfere with independent agencies, statutory bodies, or watchdogs in relation to politically sensitive issues</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) If so, which agencies have been approached, and what was the nature of these interactions?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Part 2 of the <i>Government Sector Employment Act 2013</i> establishes the Ethical Framework for a merit-based, apolitical and professional government sector that implements the decisions of the Government of the day. Principles that guide the implementation of the core value of trust requires the government sector to uphold the law, institutions of government and democratic principles, and to provide apolitical and non-partisan advice.</p> <p>Staff employed by Ministers under Part 2 of the <i>Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013</i> are required by the NSW Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make themselves aware of the Ethical Framework for the Government Sector • not knowingly encourage or induce a public official to breach the law, parliamentary obligations, or duties under an applicable code of conduct • acknowledge that staff do not have the power to direct public service employees in their own right and that public service employees are not subject to their direction. <p>The Treasurer has made a Treasurer's Direction under the <i>Government Sector Finance Act 2018</i>, entitled TD24-12 <i>Charter of Independence for NSW integrity agencies</i>, to safeguard the independence of NSW integrity agencies when engaging with The Cabinet Office, Premier's Department and Treasury concerning their financial arrangements and management practices.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|---|---|
| 107 | <p>Has the Premier's Department ever approved or funded private security services—outside of standard police protection—for Ministers, senior government figures, or political events?</p> <p>(a) If so, what is the total cost, who authorised these arrangements, and why were public resources allocated in this manner?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>It is a long-standing practice for the Premier's Department and NSW Police to provide security to the Premier, Ministers and Leader of the Opposition.</p> <p>Arrangements can be made taking individual circumstances into account, and done in close consultation with the NSW Police Force, including for Opposition Members of Parliament.</p> <p>Security arrangements are confidential.</p> <p>Security services are procured in accordance with the NSW Procurement Policy Framework and the Procurement Board's requirements.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|--|---|
| 108 | How much has the Premier's Department spent on purchasing or leasing artwork, sculptures, or decorative items for government offices, including the Premier's Office, since the Minns Labor Government took office? |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The purchase or lease of artwork for official purposes is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.</p> <p>The costs of purchasing or leasing artwork for official purposes are contained within the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Premier's Department Annual Report. Purchased artwork for official purposes greater than or equal to \$5,000 are contained within Heritage cultural assets in the Property Plant and Equipment note of the audited financial statements within the Premier's Department Annual Report.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|--|--|
| 109 | Has the Premier's Department allowed government buildings, meeting rooms, or event spaces to be used by the Labor Party or affiliated groups for political meetings, fundraising events, or campaign activities? |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Government sector employees are required to perform their duties in an apolitical and impartial manner, in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Conduct for NSW government sector employees and the Ethical Framework for the Government Sector under the <i>Government Sector Employment Act 2013</i>.</p> <p>Agencies are to avoid partisanship and to ensure that the political neutrality of the public service is not compromised. For more information, see the guidance attached to Premier's Memorandum M2022-11 <i>2023 State Election – Caretaker Conventions</i>.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|--|---|
| 110 | <p>Has the Premier's Department ever provided confidential departmental advice, draft reports, or policy briefings to Labor-affiliated think tanks, lobby groups, or trade unions before they were released to the public or Parliament?</p> <p>(a) If so, who what was the subject matter and justification?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Government sector employees are required to perform their duties in an apolitical and impartial manner, in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Conduct for NSW government sector employees and the Ethical Framework for the Government Sector under the <i>Government Sector Employment Act 2013</i>.</p> <p>Lobbying of NSW Government officials is regulated under the Lobbying of Government Officials Act 2011, the NSW Lobbyists Code of Conduct and Premier's Memorandum M2019-02 NSW Lobbyists Code of Conduct.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Premier's Department | |
|---|--|
| 111 | <p>Has the Premier's Department or Cabinet Office since the March 2023 election received any whistleblower complaints or internal grievances from public servants alleging political pressure, inappropriate directives, or unethical behaviour within the department?</p> <p>(a) If so, what was the nature of the complaints</p> <p>i. What was the band / grade of the complainants</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office manage public interest disclosures in accordance with the <i>Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022</i> and the Departments' Public Interest Disclosure Policy. Any disclosures made are handled confidentially. General information on public interest disclosures made by agencies is included in annual reports prepared by the Ombudsman pursuant to section 76 of the <i>Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022</i>.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Office Access – Premier’s Department Access | |
|---|--|
| 112 | Do any Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Executive Directors and or Directors have or ever had security pass access to the Premier’s Office and/or other Ministerial Offices? |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please refer to the statement of the Secretary of the Premier’s Department made during the Budget Estimates Hearing on Wednesday 28 August 2024.</p> <p>https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/transcripts/3317/Transcript%20-%20PC1%20-%2028%20August%202024%20-%20Budget%20Estimates%20(Minns)%20-%20CORRECTED.pdf</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Office Access – Premier’s Department Access | |
|---|---|
| 113 | If so, under what justification? Have they been granted access beyond their departmental roles? |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please refer to the statement of the Secretary of the Premier’s Department made during the Budget Estimates Hearing on Wednesday 28 August 2024.</p> <p>https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/transcripts/3317/Transcript%20-%20PC1%20-%2028%20August%202024%20-%20Budget%20Estimates%20(Minns)%20-%20CORRECTED.pdf</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Office Access – Premier’s Department Access | |
|---|--|
| 114 | Do Premier’s Office staff and/or any Ministerial Office staff have or ever had unrestricted security card access to the Premier’s Department or any other government departments at any time they need within 52 Martin Place? |
| 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. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Office Access – Premier’s Department Access | |
|---|---|
| 115 | If so, why? Under what circumstances has this been deemed necessary, and does this raise concerns about political interference in the work of the public service? |
| 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. | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Office Access – Premier’s Department Access | |
|--|--|
| 116 | <p>Beyond Departmental Liaison Officers (DLOs), has the Premier’s Department, its Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries or senior management had an ongoing desk or seating arrangement within the Premier’s Office or any Ministerial Office at any stage since the 2023 election?</p> <p>(a) If so, what is the justification for this and how long for?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>There are no ongoing desk arrangements within the Premier’s Office.</p> <p>During the transition period immediately post-election, a small number of departmental staff had a non-permanent presence within incoming Ministerial Offices to assist Machinery of Government continuity to ensure the NSW Government could continue to serve the community.</p> <p>Government sector employees are required to perform their duties in an apolitical and impartial manner, in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Conduct for NSW government sector employees and the Ethical Framework for the Government Sector under the <i>Government Sector Employment Act 2013</i>.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Overseas Travel | |
|--|--|
| 117 | As Minister, do you approve overseas travel for public servants from your portfolio department(s)/agency(s)? |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Data Breaches | |
|---|---|
| 118 | Does your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) keep a register of data breaches in accordance with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection (PIIP) Act? |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Cabinet Office and Premier's Department each keep an internal register of eligible data breaches as required by section 59ZE, Part 6A of the <i>Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998</i> (PIIP Act).</p> <p>Agencies are required by section 59ZD to prepare, publish and make publicly available a data breach policy. The PIIP Act does not provide for the internal register to be made public.</p> <p>Under clause 17, of Schedule 1 to the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i>, it is conclusively presumed that there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of information contained in a document prepared for the assessment of an eligible data breach under the PIIP Act, Part 6A, if the information could worsen a public sector agency's cyber security or lead to further data breaches.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Data Breaches | |
| 119 | If yes to 38, what is the website? |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>This response in is reference to question 118, not 38 as stated in the question above.</p> <p>The Cabinet Office and Premier's Department each keep an internal register of eligible data breaches as required by section 59ZE, Part 6A of the <i>Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998</i> (PIIP Act).</p> <p>Agencies are required by section 59ZD to prepare, publish and make publicly available a data breach policy. The PIIP Act does not provide for the internal register to be made public.</p> <p>Under clause 17, of Schedule 1 to the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i>, it is conclusively presumed that there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of information contained in a document prepared for the assessment of an eligible data breach under the PIIP Act, Part 6A, if the information could worsen a public sector agency's cyber security or lead to further data breaches.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Discretionary Fund | |
|---|--|
| 120 | <p>As Minister, do you have a discretionary fund?</p> <p>(a) If yes, what department(s) / agency(s) administer it?</p> <p>(b) If yes, what is the website URL detailing expenditure?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Premier's Discretionary Fund is funded and administered by the Premier's Department.</p> <p>https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/premiers-discretionary-funding</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| | |
|---|--|
| Qantas Chairman's Lounge | |
| 121 | Are you a member of the Qantas Chairmans Lounge? |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The <i>Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 1983</i> (Regulation) sets out Members' obligations to disclose relevant pecuniary and other interests in periodic returns to Parliament.</p> <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> <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> <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> <p>Relevant disclosures have been made to The Cabinet Office and to the NSW Parliament.</p> | |

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC on behalf of Opposition

| Local Government Councillors | |
|---|---|
| 122 | How many of your Ministerial staff is a local government councillor(s)? |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>Ministerial staff are employed by Ministers, on behalf of the State, in their capacity as "political office holders" under Part 2 of the <i>Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013</i>. 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).</p> | |

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

| Premier | |
|---|---|
| 123 | Council for Intellectual Disability NSW have consistently called for the NSW government to implement a strategy to ensure by 2026, 1% of jobs in the public sector and in government contractors are held by people with intellectual disability. Is the NSW government doing any work in relation to increasing the percentage of people with intellectual disability employed by the public sector? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: The NSW Government is building an inclusive public sector that reflects our diverse communities and helps improve government services. The government supports this through upholding core values, leading disability and Aboriginal employment initiatives, flexible work, facilitating employee networks, setting targets and supporting diversity and inclusion action plans. | |

Questions from Ms Sue Higginson MLC

| Youth Justice | |
|---|--|
| 124 | In 2020 you tweeted in support of the Black Lives Matter movement and criticised then Corrections Minister David Elliott's for distancing himself from the movement; how has your support for the BLM movement influenced policy in your Government? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: The NSW Government is committed to improving outcomes for Aboriginal people. In 2024, the Government signed a Closing the Gap partnership agreement with the NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations (NSW CAPO) and Local Government NSW to help improve Aboriginal health, education and social outcomes. The Government continues to work to address the disparities in outcomes and opportunities for Aboriginal people and communities in NSW. | |

Questions from Ms Sue Higginson MLC

| Youth Justice | |
|--|--|
| 125 | You cited increases in the jail population since your election and declared you were "not done yet". What is your target jail population and when do you anticipate reaching it? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: The Member has taken my quote out of context. There is no 'target jail population'. The priority of the NSW Government is community safety. This is achieved through a variety of policing, justice, and other programs and initiatives. | |

Questions from Ms Sue Higginson MLC

| Youth Justice | |
|--|---|
| 126 | You have a number of members of your caucus with extensive experience in criminal law. Do you generally consult them about proposed legislative amendments to the criminal law? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: The Government undertakes consultation for proposed legislation. This includes through the Cabinet and Caucus process and, where possible, with stakeholders. Members of Parliament have the opportunity to provide feedback on proposed legislation through parliamentary processes, including through debate and amendments. | |

Questions from Ms Sue Higginson MLC

| Youth Justice | |
|---|--|
| 127 | Do you still support a treaty in NSW between the government and the First Nations community? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: The NSW Government is delivering its election commitment of 12 months of consultation with Aboriginal people across NSW to understand whether Aboriginal people want a Treaty or other formal agreement making process. The NSW Government will not be pre-empting the outcome of the consultation process. | |

Questions from Ms Sue Higginson MLC

| Youth Justice | |
|---|---|
| 128 | <p>Were your youth bail amendments passed last year based on advice that they would reduce crime and victimisation in the community?</p> <p>(a) Can you provide the advice?</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>I am advised:</p> <p>The NSW Government's second reading speech for the <i>Bail and Crimes Amendment Bill 2024</i> cited NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research data showing specific increases in offending by young people under the age of 18 for motor vehicle theft and break and enter offences.</p> <p>The additional bail test was intended as a circuit breaker, offering an immediate response to keep the community safe by preventing reoffending on bail, while broader community-based programs are implemented to minimise young people's contact with the criminal justice system over the longer term.</p> | |

Questions from Ms Sue Higginson MLC

| Youth Justice | |
|---|--|
| 129 | Can you point to any legislative amendment to the Bail Act 2013, since 2013, that has made bail harder to get, that has had a demonstrated positive impact on crime rates? |
| ANSWER: I am advised: Overall crime rates are influenced by a range of factors. For further information on crime rates and trends, please refer to the BOCSAR website (www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au). | |