



STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

JEREMY HANSON CSC MLA (CHAIR), MARISA PATERSON MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JO CLAY MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Peter Cain MLA:

In relation to complaints:

1. The Annual Report advises that of 76 complaints, 22 were dismissed (pp. 26-27), seven referred to external committees and no reports withdrawn.
 - a. To where were the seven reports referred?
 - b. Were those who lodged the 22 reports that were ultimately dismissed advised of the outcome?
 - c. Was there any ability to appeal those dismissals?
2. While investigating complaints on hand, has the Commission encountered any resistance from government in the handing over of documents and access information?
 - a. What percentage of documents or materials accessed by the Commission from the ACT Government have been redacted or refused?
3. Budget Statements A (p. 13) has a total allocation of \$4.087m for the 2020-21 year in controlled recurrent payments. In reaching that amount, and in determining the number of staff required, was there an assessed number of complaints likely to be dealt with on an annual basis?
 - a. Do you know that number?
 - b. If not, how was the budget amount arrived at?
4. In the reporting period, the Inspector received one complaint (ACT Integrity Commission Annual Report 2019-20, pp. 26-27) about the conduct of the Commission or its members of staff.
 - a. Has this matter been resolved, and if so, how was it resolved?
 - b. If not, why has the matter not been resolved?
 - c. What effect has the matter had on the conduct of the Commission?
5. In relation to the KPIs to measure the assessment of reports made to the Commissioner (ACT Integrity Commission Annual Report 2019-20, pp. 26-27):
 - a. What are those KPIs?
 - b. Is there a standard timeframe that must be met in dealing with complaints?



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In relation to the office renovation:

1. Budget Statements A (p. 11) shows that a total of \$1.4m has been spent fitting out the Office of the Integrity Commission across the 2019-20 and 2020-21 Budgets. Please provide a full breakdown of where this money has been spent – e.g, lights, furniture, chairs?

The answers to the Member's questions are as follows:–

Regarding complaints

- (1)(a) This question was addressed in the Commission's response to Question on Notice 14 raised during the hearing of the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety on Thursday 25 February 2021.
- (1)(b) Yes. Section 72 of the *Integrity Commission Act 2018* provides that all complainants must be notified of the dismissal of a complaint. Where the complainants were known they were so advised.
- (1)(c) This question was addressed in the Commission's response to Question on Notice 14 raised during the hearing of the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety on Thursday 25 February 2021.
- (2) No.
- (2)(a) None.
- (3) This question is addressed in the Commission's response to Question on Notice 100 raised by Peter Cain MLA on 4 March 2021 in relation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety.
- (4) There is no reference of that kind in the Commission's Annual Report for 2019-2020. It is recommended the Inspector of the Commission be contacted for information about this question.
- (5)(a) The KPIs are as follows:
 - Within ten business days of receiving a matter an acknowledgment letter is sent to the complainant;
 - Reports are sent to the Assessment Panel for determination within the following broad timeframes:
 - Straightforward matters – within 3 weeks of the acknowledgment letter being sent;
 - Moderately complex matters – within 6 weeks of the acknowledgment letter being sent; and



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- Highly complex/extensive matters – within 9 weeks of the acknowledgment letter being sent .

(5)(b) The initial handling of complaints occurs in accordance with the timeframes set out in relation to (5)(a) above. Each matter, and each investigation that follows, is unique. As a result, it is not possible to have a standard time frame for the Commission's dealing with each corruption report it receives.

Regarding the office renovation:

- (1) The offices for the Commission were not renovated but constructed as a new office. In relation to the office construction:
- The \$1.4m figure on page 11 of the Budget Statements A, is a budget figure not an actual expenditure figure.
 - The \$1.4m figure was provided in 2020-21 to complete the construction and fit out of the Commission's new office accommodation.
 - The total estimated cost of the fit out excluding GST is \$2.6m.
 - A breakdown of the construction and fit out costs is provided below:

Description	Estimated Cost
Major Projects Canberra Fees	80,000
WHS Audit	7,000
Shared Services ICT infrastructure	330,000
Fit out Design and Documentation	210,000
Project Management Fees	276,000
Office Construction	1,361,000
Workstations	90,000
Signage	12,000
Whitegoods	5,000
Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment	81,000
Window treatments	31,000
Audio Visual Equipment	154,000
GRAND TOTAL	2,637,000



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Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature:

Date:

By the [Minister for], [name of Minister]