



## Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

### **Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023**

#### **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

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Asked by Dr Marisa Paterson MLA on 17 November 2023: Mr Aaron Hughes, Public Trustee and Guardian, took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard [uncorrected] proof transcript 17 November 2023 [page no 7]

In relation to: examination of accounts

**DR PATERSON:** So, we have had discussions in previous hearings about how those reporting, that reporting has not been up to scratch. In your annual report it was budgeted for 600 examination of accounts. Would that be the extent of everyone's account? Is that the whole 600 accounts?

**Mr A Hughes:** That is the total number of examinations that have been completed. That is probably not the same number as the total number of people who are under an order. And I suggest—I need to take it on notice to give you the most up to date numbers in that space.

But the examinations, the orders are for three years. So, in some cases we may not receive examinations on time. We may receive many examinations all at once. So the number of examinations we get through is actually contingent on what private managers give us and in response to things that we do, reminder letters that we send and other bits and pieces as well.

So, we can certainly give you the total number of private managers who we think are operating in that space and we are certainly working with the tribunal on data in that space as well.

**Public Trustee and Guardian:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

The 600 examinations of private financial manager accounts set as a key performance indicator for the Public Trustee and Guardian in 2022-23, is based on historical data as to how many examinations are normally completed by the agency in a financial year.

The target number and the actual number of examinations published in the Annual Report does not reflect a total number of private financial managers. Under *the Guardianship and Management of Property Act 1991* and the *Guardianship and Management of Property Regulation 1991*, private managers must provide accounts to the Public Trustee and Guardian for examination on the

anniversary of their appointment. This means that in any given year the agency may examine one or more sets of accounts from an individual private manager, depending on the timing of their account submission to the agency.

As of 30 June 2023, the Public Trustee and Guardian was aware of 782 active orders for private financial managers required to submit accounts to the agency.

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

Signature: 

Date: 27 November 2023

By the Public Trustee and Guardian, Mr Aaron Hughes