



Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Asked by **Ms Leanne Castley** on 16 November 2023: Ms Cross took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard uncorrected proof transcript 16 November 2023 [PAGES 34-35]

In relation to: DHR Manager international working arrangements

MS CASTLEY: Did DSD allow a DHR manager to work from England?

Ms Cross: We had a senior person who was critical to the rollout and her request was put through and I approved that so that they could continue working remotely and come back regularly during the project. So, that was a decision that was put to me for approval.

It is not completely unusual. We have flexible working arrangements now. So, we have people who can work from interstate and if they are particularly critical to attend we can look at doing that while they are overseas. So, yes, that is—

MS CASTLEY: How long did that go on for?

Ms Cross: It was probably for the last—I would have to take that on notice but it was probably for the last six to nine months. I think their partner was posted to the UK and we took a decision that because they had such a critical role in the DHR go live that it was appropriate to continue that employment.

MS CASTLEY: And they were paid the same amount while they were in?

Ms Cross: Yes. My recollection is we continued them and we included in the brief that they would be flown back and they were there for go live, for example, and a couple of other times to maintain that contact with the team.

MS CASTLEY: So, the government paid for their flights back?

Ms Cross: I believe that was part of the arrangement that I approved.

MS CASTLEY: Will you be able to stand on notice how much that cost?

Ms Cross: Yes.

Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Director-General, ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) advises that the former DHR manager worked from England but was engaged under a contract for ICT services, rather than continued employment through the ACT Public Service. The manager was a critical resource at the time they relocated to England and was responsible for the provision of project management services for the DHR implementation project through the 'execute' to 'go-live' and 'hypercare' stages.

The contract for ICT services was from 1 May 2022 to 30 April 2023 (12 months). Services were provided from June 2022 to February 2023 (9 months).

A search of the ACTHD finance systems shows the contractor was paid a total of \$195,643.50 (excluding GST). This compares to approximately \$156,000 for a Senior Officer Grade A (including oncosts and administration costs) for a similar period of time. It should be noted that the contractor worked a significant number of hours above the standard hours for a Senior Officer Grade A.

The contract for ICT services included provision relating to travel. A search of the ACTHD finance systems shows travel expenditure of \$9,158.00 (this is in addition to the payment referenced above).

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature:



Date:

29/11/23

By the Minister for Health, Ms Rachel Stephen Smith MLA