



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by: Ms Elizabeth Lawder MLA

Addressed to: Chief Minister

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript [Page 130-131]

Hearing Date: 23 July 2024

QTON lodgement date: 24 July 2024

Answer Due Date: 29 July 2024

MS LEE: Thank you. And at that time, are they effectively—so the nature of leave, is that the same as being stood down and someone else is acting in their job?

Ms Thompson: Not when they are on personal leave, no. Usually the expectation is that somebody is suspended but they would still participate in the process.

MS LEE: Yes, okay. And in terms of people who are suspended, what is the longest period someone has been suspended during an investigation?

Ms Thompson: I probably could not answer that because I can answer that to our knowledge during the period of the investigation that people might be actually stood down, and we would know about it during that period but we would not necessarily know about it beyond that. I can say that this year we have seen a reduction in the number of people suspended which the Public Sector Standards Commissioner actually thinks is a positive thing because if somebody has not engaged in such conduct that it would lead to necessarily—be obviously leading to termination, it can be very difficult to re-engage people back into the service when they have been on suspension.

So it really should be in those situations where the person—we cannot manage the risks, and we cannot—with what Ms Lee said earlier about the reasons for suspension that the person would need to be on suspension.

MS LEE: So have you got the longest period that you—within the remit of your control of the investigation?

Ms Thompson: I could certainly look at what our information tells us about what we are aware of.

THE CHAIR: Take that on notice.

Ms Thompson: Yes, thank you.

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

During financial year 2023-24, the Professional Standards Unit were notified at the time of referral to the Public Sector Standards Commissioner for investigation, that fifteen matters involved a respondent being suspended. The Professional Standards Unit does not capture data regarding the length of these suspensions.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature: 

Date: **31.7.24**

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA