



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Chief Minister

In relation to: ACT Public Service and Public Interest - Minimisation of Harm

Hearing: 27 July 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 85

Transcript provided: 31 July 2026

Answer Due: 7 August 2026

Mr Andrew Barr MLA: took on notice the following question(s):

MS CLAY: One follow-up. We understand the need for procedural fairness. We, of course, all understand this. It is very obvious to us. But we do have clear precedent in other contexts that when there are allegations that are serious enough, the person is removed from the ability to cause further harm whilst the investigation is pending. This happens a lot in the criminal justice system. It happened with Leanne Cover. She was suspended with pay. Were there any steps to ensure that the people who have now been found to have engaged in serious corrupt conduct, and quite a lot of other people who do not have asterisks against their name who have continued to be making decisions for government—were there any steps by government taken to ensure that the public interest was not exposed to harm whilst the investigation was underway?

[...]

Mr Barr: I appreciate the nature of the question, and I will take it on notice and endeavour to answer it with good intent, noting all of the legal obligations that we are under.

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

As the member will be aware, the conduct of an investigation by the Integrity Commission is subject to a range of confidentiality obligations. Information of which one might become aware as a result of participating in that investigation cannot be used until the final report of the Integrity Commission is submitted and even then, the use of it will be limited. One cannot know with any certainty as to what the final findings will be or the identity of particular persons.

Accordingly, the fact that a person maybe a witness before or a person of interest to the Integrity Commission will not necessarily give rise to a capacity to effect that person's employment or conditions of employment in the absence of the final findings.

Matters arising from Integrity Commission reports have appropriate referral pathways under both employment law and other legal processes. The ACT public service is ensuring that these processes are followed. Noting processes are currently underway, it would be a denial of procedural fairness to make any further comment until these processes are complete.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027

Signature: 

Date: **6.8.26**

By the Chief Minister, Mr Andrew Barr MLA