



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

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Attorney-General

Reference: Justice and Community Safety Directorate

Hearing: 04 August 2026

In relation to: Attorney-General and data comparison for bills

Question received: 05 August 2026

Answer Due: 12 August 2026

MR EMERSON: Are you able to provide data on this from this term of the Legislative Assembly? On the number of bills that have been perhaps initiated but not drafted to completion, or have lapsed or have been withdrawn, or any other helpful data?

...

MR EMERSON: And what about for government?

Ms Kimber: We could pull that data together. I think the way we would generate a job for a government bill differs to the way we would generate one for a private members' bill. That is, we would generate a new project or job on instruction from a private member, whereas we may open jobs in anticipation of what might be on the program for government. So we may have a job open for which there has been no activity. So I could pull that data together, but I think it would be a matter of identifying which jobs from government we have received instructions for and begun drafting. So it just takes some time.

Ms Cheyne: Okay, just whilst you take that on notice, can you actually provide data on the 13 that was discontinued, whether it was drafted, whether it lapsed? What will be the composition of that 13?

Ms Kimber: I can let you know that that is jobs where we have either been advised by the member that they do not wish to proceed with it, or it is where, for bills, there has not been any contact from the member for six months. For Assembly amendments it is for amendments that we have drafted that have not been moved.

Ms Tara Cheyne MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The column headed 'Private members' in the table below reflects the data reported to me by the Parliamentary Counsel in accordance with the *Private members' legislative drafting arrangements*, for the Eleventh Assembly up to 30 June 2026. The column headed 'Government' reflects comparable data for drafting services provided to Government over the same period.

Notes following the table explain what is captured by the data.

	Private members	Government
Drafting initiated	37	107
Drafting active	6	29
Drafting completed	18	70
Drafting discontinued/inactive	13	8

1 Private members

Private members captures all non-Executive members of the Legislative Assembly:

- non-executive Government MLAs
- Liberal MLAs
- Greens MLAs
- Independent MLAs
- the Speaker.

2 Reporting categories

The reporting categories capture the drafting jobs described below for each category (noting that each request to draft a bill or set of Assembly amendments is recorded in PCO's records management system as a separate 'job'):

- **Drafting initiated**
 - jobs opened by PCO in response to a request from a private member to draft a bill or Assembly amendments
 - jobs for drafting bills or Assembly amendments for Government if first instructions have been received from the relevant agency
- **Drafting active**
 - jobs for bills if there has been activity in the previous 6 months (eg instructions received or draft sent)
 - jobs for Assembly amendments of a bill before the Assembly that has not yet been debated
- **Drafting completed**
 - jobs for bills that have been presented (whether debated yet or not)
 - jobs for Assembly amendments that were moved during debate of the bill (whether passed or negatived)
- **Drafting discontinued/inactive**
 - jobs for bills or Assembly amendments that have been discontinued or suspended on instruction by the requesting MLA (for private members) or

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- instructing agency (for Government)
- jobs for bills if there has been no activity in the previous 6 months
- jobs for Assembly amendments of a bill if the amendments were not moved during debate of the bill.

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

Signature: 
By the Attorney-General, Ms Tara Cheyne MLA

Date: 12/8/26