



Inquiry into Caretaker Conventions

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: MS LEANNE CASTLEY MLA

Addressed to: CHIEF MINISTER

Redirected to:

In relation to: ACT Public Service and Treasury access to spending information of agencies

Hearing: 11 June 2025

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Answer Due: 25/06/2025

ANDREW BARR MLA took on notice the following question(s):

[UPT pages 38-39]

MS CASTLEY: So does Treasury have its own access to that spending information for the other agencies, or do they rely on the agencies to report to them?

Mr Barr: Agencies are reporting to Treasury.

MS CASTLEY: How often does that happen?

Mr Barr: I will take that on notice but it would be—certainly, I mean, there is mandated, legislated quarterly reporting. That is the absolute minimum. There may be more frequent updates with some agencies but again it will depend on their circumstances.

MS CASTLEY: And does it change during caretaker?

Mr Barr: Well, public service requirements would not change. Obviously there are quarterly—the September quarter ends during the caretaker period. And so I think there are requirements under the FMA, from memory, for certain reports to be required within 45 days of the end of a quarter. So I mean, to cut to the chase of, you know, what you are actually interested in in all of this, the issue is the timing of the PEBU and the timing of the election and the extent of our caretaker period, which is insanely long by any measure. Our campaigns are longer than federal campaigns because of the current acts and timing of our election.

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ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Larger agencies provide monthly financial reporting to Treasury. Actuals are from September through to June and various subsequent audit periods. No data is collected in July and August due to the finalisation of prior year financial statements and audits.

This reporting is collected at agency level and by type of funding (controlled and territorial) against a whole of government chart of accounts and internal trading structure. Information at a lower level is not currently collected by Treasury outside of the capital works program which captures information on individual capital projects and milestones.

This requirement does not change during the caretaker period.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Caretaker Conventions

Signature: 

By the CHIEF MINISTER, ANDREW BARR MLA

Date: 24.6.25