



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

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Ed Cocks MLA

Addressed to: Treasurer, Chris Steel MLA

In relation to: Treasury and FMA s18 Directions - JACS

Hearing: 21 July 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 17-18

Transcript provided: 23 July 2026

Answer Due: 30 July 2026

Treasurer took on notice the following question(s):

MR COCKS: Okay. One of those treasurer's advance directions, that is 2025 to 26, 04, was for \$10.6 million for Justice and Community Services Directorate. On what date did you receive a request for that direction?

Mr Steel: Yes. We will have to take that on notice.

MR COCKS: Okay. So, following the treasurer's advance, will JACS still be underspent in line with what the budget says? Given you told me that the impact of the treasurer's advance is already incorporated in the budget papers, will they still be underspent?

Mr Austin: We will probably need to take that on notice and see where they will end up at the end of the year, because it is a judgment call at the time when you make the advice.

MR COCKS: Yes. My concern is that the advice and the budget day are the same day, so we are looking at information all at the same time. But if you can clarify that, that would be handy.

Mr Steel: The financial year has not yet ended and we report on that in the budget review.

Ms Dowdell: As Mr Austin said—sorry Michelle Dowdell, Acting Under Treasurer—it could be that the final—they will be under the appropriations, but for purposes—for expenses that they were not able to use for the expenses they needed the treasury's advance for.

MR COCKS: Maybe you can answer this for me. Did you, as treasury, then provide advice to the treasurer specifying what the immediate need for payment was?

Mr Austin: Yes we did. I mean, that figure reflects our judgement on what was needed. Yes.

MR COCKS: Is that advice that can be provided on notice?

Ms Dowdell: We will see what we can provide on notice.

CHRIS STEEL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- a) The request was received on 29 May 2026.
- b) The Changes to Appropriation table in the Justice and Community Safety Directorate Budget Statement D (pages 29-32) does not show an underspend in 2025-26. The table shows a net movement of \$8.940 million from 2025-26 to 2026-27 and forward years. This primarily reflects movements in Commonwealth grant funding which can only be used in accordance with the relevant federal funding agreements.
- c) Treasury provided advice to the Treasurer, with the recommended amount of \$10.600 million. The specific reasons for the Treasurer's Advance payment, which are the basis for Treasury's advice, are outlined in the section 18 *Financial Management Act 1996* instrument provided to the Legislative Assembly.

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

Signature: 
By the Treasurer, Mr Chris Steel MLA

Date: 29/7/26