



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA (Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January 2022 – June 2022
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
8 December 2022

Asked by Elizabeth Kikkert MLA on 8 December 2022: Mr Damian West took on notice the following question(s):

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In relation to:

THE CHAIR: Is that followed up as well? Like after several months of being within the directorate, with the induction you are teaching newbies for prevention. Do you follow up within six or eight months?

Mr West: We do a number of things. So there is a continued stream of messaging, we—I will have to check or come back on whether directorates go specifically back to new hirers, if you like, or new starters to gather their understanding of the materials we were presented.

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

As acknowledged in the Auditor-General report and the ACT Government response, the ACT Public Sector (ACTPS) undertakes a range of work to minimise the risk of internal fraud and to improve fraud prevention measures across the ACTPS, including mandatory fraud and corruption prevention training for new starters.

Each ACTPS directorate/agency has developed and implemented a Fraud and Corruption Prevention Plan, with mechanisms for the management of fraud and corruption risks. This includes oversight by audit committees and regular reporting from the Senior Executive Responsible for Business Integrity Risk (SERBIR).

Additionally, the ACTPS is committed to strengthening fraud prevention measures and fostering fraud awareness across the ACTPS, including through the release of an updated ACTPS Integrity Framework to align with the establishment of both the Public Sector Standards Commissioner (PSSC) and the ACT Integrity Commission (ACTIC). The Framework provides all ACTPS staff with guidance on expectations of integrity and fraud in the ACTPS.

Whilst there is no specific requirement to follow up with the new starters after mandatory fraud and corruption training on induction, ACTPS directorates/agencies employ the following ongoing awareness and education strategies for all ACTPS employees, including new starters:

- at least annually refresher fraud prevention training and workshops,
- eLearn modules on fraud prevention, and the Code of Conduct,
- regular all-staff education and awareness messages, both targeted within individual directorates and broader whole of ACTPS messages,
- each directorate has their own Senior Executive Responsible for Business Integrity Risk, who undertakes activities to promote and educate on fraud and corruption prevention within their directorate/agency, including the provision of regular information and news articles,
- conflict-of-interest education, policies and declaration processes,
- all-staff surveys, both whole of ACTPS surveys and several agencies also conduct staff surveys that include questions on fraud and integrity, and
- supervisor development programs, aimed at new managers, providing information to effectively execute their core supervisory duties including modules that discuss fraud and corruption matters.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: 

Date: 17.12.22

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA