QTON No. 093

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025
Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by: Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Skills and Training

Redirected to: NA

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript page 62

In relation to: CIT Board correspondence Ms Cover pay rise

Hearing Date: 26 July 2024

QTON lodgement date: 29 July 2024

Answer Due Date: 1 August 2024

MS LEE: Yes, thank you, I appreciate that. Finally, just in relation to—as is on the public record—we have spent quite a lot of time arguing against pay rises whilst Ms Cover was on leave and we raised it a number of times in the Assembly. I raised questions with Minister Steel as well as the Chief Minister, and there was a to-ing and fro-ing about whose responsibility it was given that it was 'go to the Remuneration Tribunal' or 'no, we need legislative changes'.

Did the board have any submissions or correspondence with either the Remuneration Tribunal or the appropriate minister about arguing against the pay rises?

Ms Howson: Again, I would need to take that on notice specifically. I know it was an issue that was discussed in the board meeting but whether or not there was correspondence between the chair and the Remuneration Tribunal, I will have to double-check that.

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

The CIT is an independent Territory Authority with a governing board. The CIT Board advises that they wrote to the Remuneration Tribunal about the travel allowance of the Interim CEO, but not about increases in salary for the CEO. Halting increases in the salary of the CEO would have impacted on the salary of the Interim CEO and would have put the role out of step with other Government positions.

It is not appropriate for the Board to write to the Remuneration Tribunal about an individual's performance, or whether individual circumstances warrant suspending or reducing pay as this is not the Tribunal's role. Their role is to consider the position's remuneration.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature: Date: 2/8/24

By the Minister for Skills and Training, Chris Steel MLA