



**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 ON NOTICE**

Asked By: Mr Peter Cain MLA

Addressed to: Attorney-General

Reference: Attorney-General

Hearing Date: 30/07/2024

In relation to: Director of Public Prosecutions and Appointment

QON lodgement Date: 30/07/2024

Answer Due date: 06/08/2024

- (1) Could you please outline exactly how the vetting process and appointment of the new Director of Public Prosecutions was undertaken?
  - (a) Was it an open recruitment process?
  - (b) How many other applicants were there?
  - (c) Who were the other applicants?
  - (d) How many applicants were interviewed?
  - (e) Which applicants were interviewed?
  - (f) Did the recruitment process make recommendations to the Attorney-General?
  - (g) Was the first recommendation of the recruitment process Ms Engel?
  - (h) Can you provide a copy of the final recommendation document to the committee?
  - (i) To the best of your knowledge, how did the appointment process differ from that of Mr Drumgold on 1 January 2019?
  - (j) What learnings, if any, from the tenure of Mr Drumgold as DPP were applied to the appointment of Ms Engel?

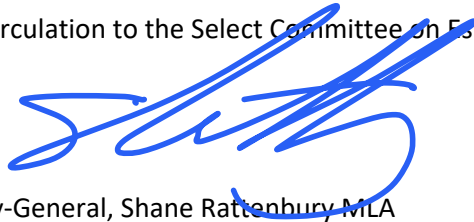
Shane Rattenbury MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (a) Yes. The call for applications for the role was gazetted on 9 December 2023 and closed on 14 January 2024. Public notices inviting applications were placed in local and national newspapers.
- (b) Ten applications were received.

- (c) Responding to this question would unreasonably disclose applicants' personal information. I am of the view that this is contrary to the public interest, and I am therefore unable to provide this information.
- (d) Four applicants were interviewed.
- (e) Responding to this question would unreasonably disclose applicants' personal information. I am of the view that this is contrary to the public interest, and I am therefore unable to provide this information.
- (f) The recruitment panel provided the Attorney-General with advice about the suitability of applicants for appointment.
- (g) The recruitment panel provided the Attorney-General with advice about the suitability of applicants for appointment.
- (h) Disclosure of the final report of the selection panel would involve the disclosure of a deliberation of Cabinet and I am therefore unable to provide it.
- (i) The appointment process did not materially differ from that of Mr Drumgold.
- (j) The appointment of the new DPP was conducted in accordance with normal ACT Government processes.

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

Signature:



Date:

6/8/24

By the Attorney-General, Shane Rattenbury MLA