



9 October 2025.
Our reference: OLA-0195

Dear [REDACTED]

DECISION ON YOUR ACCESS APPLICATION

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the Act) accepted by the Office of the Legislative Assembly (OLA) as a partial transfer from Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) on 10 September 2025.

Specifically, you sought access to the following:

Documents created between the first day of the 2025-26 Budget Estimates hearings and the date this application is processed:

- 1. The final draft version of answers to questions on notice and questions taken on notice concerning any ACT Public Service Directorate from the 2025-26 Legislative Assembly Budget Estimates hearings that were provided to any ACT Minister's office for review, comment, or approval.*
- 2. All correspondence and advice between any staff member of any ACT Public Service Directorate and any Minister or member of a Minister's office staff where they have requested **amendments, alterations, or proposed changes** to the draft answers identified in Part 1. In relation to this point, you are [the applicant is] seeking any request for amendment from the Minister and/or their staff.*

OLA agreed to process the part of your application that pertains to the three QONS and QTONS asked of the Speaker only. These are:

- Question on Notice 84
- Questions Taken on Notice 61
- Questions Taken on Notice 62

Authority

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory under section 18 of the Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act.

Timeframes

In accordance with section 40 of the Act, we are required to provide a decision on your access application within 30 working days.

Therefore, a decision is due 22 October 2025.

Decision on Access

A search of our records has been undertaken, and a total of three documents have been found to be within scope of your application for Point 1.

I have decided to grant full release to all three documents.

No documents were found for Point 2.

Statement of Reasons

In accordance with section 54(2) of the Act, a statement of reasons outlining my decisions is below. In reaching my access decisions, I have taken into account:

- the Act
- the information that falls within the scope of your request
- ACT Ombudsman Freedom of Information Guidelines

As a decision maker, I am required to determine whether the information within scope is in the public interest to release. To make this decision, I am required to:

- assess whether the information would be contrary to public interest to disclose as per **Schedule 1** of the FOI Act
- perform the public interest test as set out in section 17 of the FOI Act by balancing the factors favouring disclosure and factors favouring nondisclosure in **Schedule 2** of the FOI Act.

Schedule 1: Information disclosure of which is taken to be contrary to the public interest

My reasons for deciding not to grant access to the identified documents and components of these documents are as follows:

- *No relevant sections identified*

Public Interest Test

- The Act has a presumption in favour of disclosure. As a decision maker I am required to decide where, on balance, the public interests lie. As part of this process, I must consider factors favouring disclosure and non-disclosure.
- Section 17(1) of the Act sets for completing the public interest test. As part of this process, I must identify all relevant factors in schedule 1 of the Act. If no factor in schedule 1 is found relevant, I must then consider the factors listed in schedule 2 of the Act and determine, on balance where the public interest lies.

Schedule 2: Factors to be considered when deciding the public interest.

- Taking into consideration the information contained in the documents found to be within the scope of your request, I have identified that the following public interest factors are relevant to determine if release of the information contained within these documents is within the 'public interest'.

Factors favouring disclosure (Section 2.1)

- *Section 2.1(a)(ii) – contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest*

Having considered the factors identified as relevant in this matter, I consider that release of the information contained in these documents may contribute to proactive discussions about matters of public interest.

I am satisfied that these factors favouring disclosure carry some weight. However, these factors are to be balanced against the factors favouring nondisclosure.

Factors favouring nondisclosure (Section 2.2)

- *No relevant sections identified*

Disclosure log

- Please note that section 28 of the Act requires publication of access applications and any information subsequently released on our disclosure log: [Freedom of information - ACT Legislative Assembly](#).
- This means that if access to the information is granted, it will also be made publicly available on our website, unless the access application is an application for your or another's personal, business or professional information.

Review rights

- You may apply to the ACT Ombudsman to review my decision under section 73 of the Act.
- An application for review must be made in writing within 20 working days of receipt of this decision notice.
- You may submit a request for review of my decision to the ACT Ombudsman by writing in one of the following ways:
-

Email (preferred): actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au

Post: The ACT Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601

- More information about ACT Ombudsman review is available on the ACT Ombudsman website: [FOI Complaints and Reviews | ACT Ombudsman](#).

Yours sincerely


Hamish Finlay
Acting Clerk

9 October 2025

Schedule of documents

Ref: OLA25-0184

Document reference number	Page number	Date	Description	Decision	Category or Factor
1	1-5	5 August 2025	Email correspondence: RE: Questions on notice as part of estimates committee process - QON 84 – Estimates 2025-2026	Release	N/A
2	6-8	4 August 2025	Email correspondence: QTON 61 – Estimates 2025-2026 - QTON 61 – Estimates 2025-2026	Release	N/A
3	9	-	QTON 62 – Estimates 2025-2026	Release	N/A

From: [Kalfic, Kristina](#)
To: [Skinner, David](#); [Duncan, Tom](#)
Subject: RE: Questions on notice as part of estimates committee process
Date: Tuesday, 5 August 2025 11:51:00 AM
Attachments: [OON 84 - Estimates 2025-2026.docx](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi David/Tom,

A final chance to pass your eyes over before I take it up to the Speaker for signing.

Cheers,

Kristina.

From: Skinner, David <David.Skinner@parliament.act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 4 August 2025 4:02 PM
To: Kalfic, Kristina [REDACTED]
Cc: Duncan, Tom <Tom.Duncan@parliament.act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Questions on notice as part of estimates committee process

OFFICIAL

Kristina,

The Clerk has approved, would you mind putting in template and Tom can send up for the Speaker's approval and onforwarding to the committee?

Many thanks

David

David Skinner

Senior Director, Office of the Clerk

Office of the Legislative Assembly

P 02 62050018 | E david.skinner@parliament.act.gov.au



The Office of the Legislative Assembly

From: Duncan, Tom <Tom.Duncan@parliament.act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 4 August 2025 3:58 PM
To: Skinner, David <David.Skinner@parliament.act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Questions on notice as part of estimates committee process

OFFICIAL

Looks fine to me.

Tom Duncan

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

P 02 620 50191 | E tom.duncan@parliament.act.gov.auwww.parliament.act.gov.au

From: Skinner, David <David.Skinner@parliament.act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 4 August 2025 3:52 PM
To: Duncan, Tom <Tom.Duncan@parliament.act.gov.au>
Subject: Questions on notice as part of estimates committee process

OFFICIAL

Tom,

For your approval before going to the Speaker for his approval.

Ds

Who developed the ACT Legislative Assembly's Art Collection policy?

The Assembly's art collection policies and procedures have been developed by the Legislative Assembly Art Advisory Committee (LAAAC).

When was the policy developed?

2009.

Has there ever been a review undertaken of the policy?Yes, the policy is reviewed and updated periodically, most recently in the 11th Assembly.**In determining whether an artist's work is suitable to form part of the Art Collection, does the Curator consider whether the artwork forms part of the Australian Parliament House Art Collection, and if not, why not?**

Whether or not an 'artwork forms part of the Australian Parliament House Art Collection' is not a factor in acquiring an artwork, nor is it a factor that would be excluded from consideration. Recommendations for acquisition are typically at the discretion of the Curatorial Adviser based on a wide range of factors including their expertise, knowledge of the collection, and the priorities and objectives of the LAAAC.

Does the Speaker have any discretion in approving artworks to be part of the Legislative Assembly's Art Collection?

Whether or not an artwork is approved for acquisition is at the discretion of the Speaker based on the advice of the LAAAC and the Curatorial Adviser.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2025-2026

Mr Ed Cocks (Chair), Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA (Deputy Chair),
Ms Fiona Carrick MLA, Ms Caitlin Tough MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by: Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA

Addressed to: The Speaker

Redirected to: N/A

Reference: Office of the Legislative Assembly

In relation to: ACT Legislative Assembly Art Collection

Hearing Date: 25 July 2025

QON lodgement date: 4 August 2025

Answer Due Date: 11 August 2025

THE SPEAKER: The answers to the Member's questions are as follows:

Who developed the ACT Legislative Assembly's Art Collection policy?

The Assembly's art collection policies and procedures have been developed by the Legislative Assembly Art Advisory Committee (LAAAC).

When was the policy developed?

2009.

Has there ever been a review undertaken of the policy?

Yes, the policy is reviewed and updated periodically, most recently in the 11th Assembly.

In determining whether an artist's work is suitable to form part of the Art Collection, does the Curator consider whether the artwork forms part of the Australian Parliament House Art Collection, and if not, why not?

Whether or not an 'artwork forms part of the Australian Parliament House Art Collection' is not a factor in acquiring an artwork, nor is it a factor that would be excluded from consideration. Recommendations for acquisition are typically at the discretion of the Curatorial Adviser based on a wide range of factors including their expertise, knowledge of the collection, and the priorities and objectives of the LAAAC.

Does the Speaker have any discretion in approving artworks to be part of the Legislative Assembly's Art Collection?

Whether or not an artwork is approved for acquisition is at the discretion of the Speaker based on the advice of the LAAAC and the Curatorial Adviser.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025-2026

Signature:

Date:

By Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT, Mark Parton MLA

From: [Turner, Rachel](#)
To: [Kalfic, Kristina](#)
Subject: QTON 61 - Estimates 2025-2026
Date: Monday, 4 August 2025 11:18:00 AM
Attachments: [QTON 61 - Estimates 2025-2026.docx](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi Kristina – I think this is clearer



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Ms Fiona Carrick MLA, Ms Caitlin Tough MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by: Mr Ed Cocks MLA

Addressed to: The Speaker

Redirected to: N/A

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript pp 436-437

In relation to: Mandatory training

Hearing Date: 25 July 2025

QTON lodgement date: 29 July 2025

Answer Due Date: 5 August 2025

THE CHAIR: As a supplementary, how much of the training that is available is mandatory for staff? And what sort of process, outside of the things that are legally required, would you usually expect for a course— a specific course became mandatory for all members of the Assembly and their staff?

Mr Duncan: Look, Mr Cocks, I would have to take that question on notice. I think there have been occasions when we have done occupational health and safety training. But the only way we get it to be mandatory is when we take it to the Administration and Procedures Committee, and that committee agrees. Because I cannot force member's staff. I am not the employee of member's staff. There are 26 PCBU's in this building and they each have to decide what training is appropriate for their staff. I have got the office.

And so, where we do think it is worthwhile offering mandatory training, we get the endorsement of the Admin and Procedures Committee, and then we write to members saying, the Admin and Procedures Committee has suggested that this is mandatory. But I will take the specifics of your question on notice and get back to you about which ones are mandatory and which— I do not think there has been too many mandatory ones—

THE SPEAKER: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The following training is compulsory for all Legislative Assembly staff:

- Security Awareness Training
- Anti-Bullying and Anti-Harassment
- Respect @ Work – Sexual Harassment
- Work Health and Safety (PCBUs and Office Holders)
- Work Health and Safety (All Managers)
- Work Health and Safety (All Employees)

The following is compulsory for Office of the Legislative Assembly staff only:

- Fraud and Corruption Prevention Training
- Cyber Security Training

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025-2026

Signature:

Date:

By Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT, Mark Parton MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2025-2026

Mr Ed Cocks (Chair), Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA (Deputy Chair),
Ms Fiona Carrick MLA, Ms Caitlin Tough MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by: Ms Caitlin Tough MLA

Addressed to: The Speaker

Redirected to: N/A

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript p 437

In relation to: Last OLA operating surplus

Hearing Date: 25 July 2025

QTON lodgement date: 29 July 2025

Answer Due Date: 5 August 2025

MS TOUGH: And when was the last time that OLA had an operating surplus?

Mr Shashika: That I cannot recall. But in terms of cash position, even in the current financial year we have a cash surplus, which shows— it comes from the point that some of the expenses are not cash.

MS TOUGH: Yes. Could you take on notice when there was— the last operating surplus was?

Mr Shashika: Yes—

THE SPEAKER: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The most recent operating surplus reported by the Office of the Legislative Assembly was \$118,000 in the 2022–23 financial year.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025-2026

Signature:

Date:

By Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT, Mark Parton MLA