Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Standing Committee on the Integrity Commission and Statutory Office Holders

Extract of minutes of proceedings

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 002* – Tuesday, 17 December 2024

Members present: Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA

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1. Commencement

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 9:34 am.

7. Inquiry into Annual and Financial reports 2023-24

7.1. The Committee noted the list of Annual Reports relevant to the Committee.

7.2. The Committee asked that the Annual Reports hearing schedule include a 30-minute timeslot for the Integrity Commissioner; a 30-minute timeslot for the Auditor-General; and a 20-minute timeslot for the other hearings.

7.3. The Committee resolved [WERNER-GIBBINGS] that the Chair write to the relevant Ministers, statutory officers and officials to invite them to the Annual Report hearings in line with their availability as arranged by Committee Support and noting the agreed upon timeslots for each.

14. Close

14.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 10:13 AM.

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 003* – Tuesday, 28 January 2025

Members present: Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair)

Apology: Mr Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA

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1. Commencement

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 9.34 am.

5. Inquiry into Annual Reports and Financial Reports 2023–24

5.1. The Committee noted the hearing schedule.

13. Close

13.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 9.52 am.

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 004* – Monday, 10 February 2025

Members present: Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA

Visiting Member: Ms Leanne Castley MLA

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1. Commencement

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 9.02 am.

2. Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24 – public hearing

2.1. The following witnesses came to the table and were examined:

- Mr Mark Parton MLA, Speaker
- Office of the Legislative Assembly officials:
    - Mr Tom Duncan, Clerk
    - Ms Rachel Turner, Executive Manager, Business Support Branch
    - Mr David Skinner, Senior Director, Office of the Clerk

2.2. Evidence completed, the witnesses withdrew.

4. Close

4.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 9.30 am.

Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 005* – Monday, 17 February 2025

Members present: Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA

Visiting Members: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA, Ms Deborah Morris MLA

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1. Commencement

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 9.15 am.

1.2. REDACTED

2. Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24 – public hearing

2.1. The Auditor-General for the ACT came to the table and was examined.

4. Adjournment

4.1. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9.44 am.

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 006* – Monday, 17 February 2025

Members present: Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA

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1. Commencement

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 9.48 am.

3. Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24

3.1. The Committee noted a letter received 14 February 2025 from the ACT Audit Office advising that a corrigendum will be issued for its 2023–24 Annual Report.

11. Close

11.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 10.00 am.

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 007* – Wednesday, 19 February 2025

Members present: Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA

Visiting Member: Ms Leanne Castley MLA

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1. **Commencement**

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 10.41 am.

2. **Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24 – public hearing**

2.1. Mr Damian Cantwell, ACT Electoral Commissioner, came to the table and was examined.

4. **Close**

4.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 11.10 am.

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 008* – Thursday, 20 February 2025

Members present: Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA

Visiting Members: Ms Leanne Castley MLA, Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

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1. **Commencement**

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 12.05 pm.

2. **Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24 – public hearing**

2.1. The following witnesses came to the table and were examined:

- <u>Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General</u>
- Justice and Community Safety Directorate official:
    - Mr Daniel Ng, Acting Executive Group Manager, Legislation, Policy and Programs

2.2. Evidence completed, the witnesses withdrew.

2.3. The Chair suspended proceedings between 12.22 pm and 1.35 pm.

2.4. The following witnesses came to the table and were examined:

- ACT Ombudsman representatives:
    - Mr Iain Anderson, ACT Ombudsman, Inspector of the ACT Integrity Commission, and Principal Officer of the Judicial Council
    - Mr David Fintan, Senior Assistant Ombudsman, Defence, Investigations, ACT & Legal Branch (DIAL)
    - Ms Georgia Ramsay, Director ACT Strategy & Inspector, Defence, Investigations, ACT & Legal Branch (DIAL)

2.5. Evidence completed, the witnesses withdrew.

2.6. The Chair suspended proceedings between 2.00 pm and 2.20 pm.

2.7. The following witnesses came to the table and were examined:

- ACT Integrity Commission representatives:
    - The Hon Michael F Adams KC, Commissioner
    - Ms Judy Lind, Chief Executive Officer
    - Mr Scott Hickey, Chief Finance Officer

4. Close

4.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 2.53 pm.

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 009* – Tuesday, 25 February 2025

Members present: Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair)

Apology: Mr Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA

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1. Commencement

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 9.30 am.

6. Inquiry into Annual Reports and Financial Reports 2023-24

6.1. The Committee agreed to the following timetable for developing the report:

- Members to send all suggested recommendations to secretariat for compilation by **cob Wednesday 5 March 2025**.
- Recommendations to be discussed at next meeting on **11 March 2025**.
- Draft report consideration at meeting on **25 March 2025**.
- Amended report (to take into account changes suggested on first draft) at meeting on **1 April 2025**
- Final consideration opportunity at meeting on **29 April 2025** (last scheduled meeting before the report is due on 12 May 2025).

15. Close

15.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 10.18am.

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 010* – Tuesday, 11 March 2025

Members present: Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA

1. Commencement

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 9.31 am.

5. Inquiry into Annual Reports and Financial Reports 2023–24

5.1. The Committee noted that eight questions taken on notice (QTONs) and three questions on notice (QONs) had been lodged during and after public hearings, and that all had been answered. The only outstanding answer (QTON 6) had been submitted after the agenda and papers had been prepared.

5.2. The Committee noted a letter from the Electoral Commissioner, received 3 March 2025, requesting a correction to the Hansard proof transcription for 19 February 2025.

5.3. The Committee considered recommendations for the inquiry report submitted by members. Two further recommendations were suggested. All recommendations were accepted, with recommendation 2 subject to confirmation.

5.4. The Committee noted that, in the first year of an Assembly, less time in public hearings was needed to examine the Electoral Commission and the Attorney-General, as the report on the election was still being drafted.

13. Close

13.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 10.38 am.

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 011* – Tuesday, 25 March 2025

Members present: Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA

1. Commencement

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 9.32 am

3. Conflicts of interest

3.1. Mr Braddock declared his intention to move a motion in the Assembly which related to one of the Committee's recommendations in the report for the *Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24*.

5. Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24 – report consideration

5.1. No Member submitted an alternative draft report.

5.2. The Committee agreed to consider the report by paragraphs together.

5.3. The Committee deliberated on the report as follows:

Chapter 1 – agreed to
Paragraphs 2.1 to 2.7 – agreed to
Paragraph 2.8 – deleted
Recommendation 1 – agreed to
Chapter 3 – agreed to
Recommendation 2 – agreed to
Paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2 – agreed to
Paragraph 4.3 – title amended and agreed to
Paragraphs 4.3 to 4.7 – agreed to
Paragraph 4. 8 – deleted
Recommendation 3 – amended and agreed to
Paragraphs 5.1 to 5.5 – agreed to
Paragraph 5.6 – deleted
Recommendation 4 – amended and agreed to
Paragraphs 5.7 to 5.11 – agreed to
Recommendation 5 – agreed to
Paragraphs 5.12 to 5.15 – agreed to
Recommendation 6 – amended and agreed to
Paragraphs 6.1 to 6.5 – agreed to
Recommendation 7 – agreed to
Paragraphs 6.6 and 6.7 – agreed to
Recommendation 8 – amended and agreed to
Paragraphs 6.8 and 6.9 – agreed to
Recommendation 9 – amended and agreed to
Chapters 7 and 8 – agreed to
Appendices A, B and C– agreed to.

5.4. The Committee **resolved** [COCKS] to adopt the Chair's draft report, as amended.

5.5. The Committee **resolved** [BRADDOCK] that the Secretary be authorised to make minor formatting and typographical changes to the report to prepare it for printing, after its adoption by the Committee but prior to its presentation.

5.6. Noting that the Committee's resolution of establishment requires the inquiry to be concluded by 12 May 2025, the Committee agreed that the Chair would table the report during the April sitting week.

5.7. The Committee noted that dissenting reports, if any, are to be provided at least a day before tabling and they are not circulated to Members prior to tabling.

5.8. The Committee agreed that the Chair would move that the report be noted.

5.9. The Committee deliberated on the draft media release. The Committee **resolved** [WERNER-GIBBINGS] to adopt the media release as amended.

12. Close

12.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 11.00 am.

All minutes are signed by the Chair, except for Meeting 11, which is certified correct by the secretary.

[CERTIFIED CORRECT]

K. de Kleuver

Ms Kathleen de Kleuver
Committee Secretary
1 April 2025