



# Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

## Answer to question taken on notice

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Asked by: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA

Addressed to: ACT Integrity Commission

In relation to: Legal costs

Hearing: 28 July 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 17

Transcript provided: 29 July 2026

Answer Due: 5 August 2026

ACT Integrity Commission took on notice the following question(s):

**THE CHAIR:** Thank you. I just have a few questions around the legal proceedings that were commenced in the Kingfisher process and I just wondered whether you have figures on how much it cost you to defend yourself against those proceedings and Operation Luna as well and any other closed proceedings.

**The Hon Mr Adams:** May I take that on notice please?

**THE CHAIR:** Yes.

**[The Hon Michael F Adams, KC]:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Commission incurs both internal and external costs to defend proceedings brought by individuals who are or have been subject to a function exercised by the Commission, including the conduct of investigations relating to allegations of corrupt conduct under the *Integrity Commission Act 2018*.

Since its commencement in 2019, 6 proceedings involving three Commission investigations have been brought against the Commission.

The external costs incurred by the Commission on litigation is \$392,270. These costs largely comprise payments made to external legal counsel who have represented the Commission.

### Internal Commission Staff Costs

The cost of the time spent by key Commission personnel on litigation is estimated to be \$152,827 using the ACT Government average costing model and excluding administrative on-costs.

It should be noted this method of attribution of costs is different from cost orders determined by the courts, which use court costing methodologies and rates and in some cases determination by independent cost assessors.

#### **Court Cost Orders**

To date the Commission has obtained cost orders substantially in its favour in all finalised matters and has received \$194,109 from the applicants.

#### **Opportunity Costs**

The actual 'cost' to the Commission from defending proceedings taken against it is the opportunity cost of diverting the attention of the Commissioner and other senior staff to manage each proceeding. This includes instructing counsel, preparation of affidavits, liaison with the other parties, attendance at court, follow up work arising from the judgment of the court.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Adams', on a white rectangular background.

Signature:

Date: 05 August 2026

By the ACT Integrity Commissioner, The Hon Michael F Adams, KC.