



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

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Deborah Morris MLA

Addressed to: Chief Minister

In relation to: Minister's Staff and Separation Payment - Chief of Staff

Hearing: 27 July 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 85-86

Transcript provided: 31 July 2026

Answer Due: 7 august 2026

Mr Andrew Barr MLA: took on notice the following question(s):

MRS MORRIS: Chief Minister, with regards to employment under the Legislative Assembly Member's Staff Act, I understand that on his departure from the Deputy Chief Minister's Office, the former Chief of Staff received a separation payment in line with section B7 of the enterprise agreement. Chief Minister, can you confirm whether your former Deputy Chief Minister's Chief of Staff received a separation payment?

Mr Barr: I am not in a position to do that now. I will need to take legal advice in relation to that matter as well. But I appreciate the intent of the question and I will endeavour to answer it as I can legally and appropriately.

MRS MORRIS: And in answering that, can you elaborate on the circumstances surrounding the separation payment?

Mr Barr: Again, I will need to take legal advice in relation to that matter, but yes—

THE CHAIR: Sorry, what legal advice, Chief Minister?

Mr Barr: Well, there would be a range of employment law, personal privacy law that would be impacted here.

THE CHAIR: Yes, but the person has been found to be engaged in serious corrupt conduct. We are before an inquiry.

Mr Barr: Yes, I will need—

THE CHAIR: What is the legal advice that you need to say whether or not that person received a separation payment?

Mr Barr: I am not at liberty to discuss legal advice matters. I will take that advice. I take the question on notice.

THE CHAIR: But we are here.

MRS MORRIS: Did you seek advice on that prior to this hearing?

Mr Barr: I will take the question on notice.

Mr Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The former Chief of Staff to the then Deputy Chief Minister did not receive a separation payment.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027

Signature: 

Date: 6.8.26

By the Chief Minister, Mr Andrew Barr MLA