



# Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

## Answer to question on notice

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Asked by: Mr Peter Cain MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Reference: Planning

Hearing: 18 February 2025

In relation to: EPSDD and Chief Planner

Question received: 19 February 2025

Answer Due: 26 February 2025

- (1) Who is currently serving as Chief Planner?
- (2) Were there any conflicts of duties experienced by Mr Ponton in his dual capacity as Director-General and Chief Planner for the 2023-24 financial year?
- (3) Did Mr Ponton submit any conflict of interest declaration in 2023-24?
- (4) Has Mr Ponton submitted any conflict of interest declarations since his appointment as Chief Planner?
- (5) Has Mr Ponton submitted any conflict of interest declarations since his appointment as Director-General?
- (6) How many days on average did Mr Ponton work from home per week in 2023-24?
- (7) How many days on average did Mr Ponton work from ACT Government offices per week in 2023-24?

Minister Steel: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) Mr George Cilliers PSM.
- (2) No.
- (3),(4)&(5) Mr Ponton has provided an annual Executive Declaration of Private Interest and Conflict of Interest Declaration to the Head of Service since his appointment as Director-General and Chief Planner and in addition, in accordance with Section 28 of the *Planning Act 2023*, provided a separate declaration to the Executive.

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(6)&(7) The ACT Public Service continues to encourage flexibility and access to flexible, hybrid working arrangements that will support our employees to perform at their best. Workplaces include ACT Government offices, whilst travelling on ACT Government business, and working remotely.

Calculating the average days of any particular employee seems to be counter to ACT Government Policy, and an unnecessary use of public resources.

Mr Ponton currently works five (5) days per week from ACT Government offices.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment, Planning, Transport and City Services

Signature:



Date:

26/2/25

By the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development, Chris Steel MLA