

**Tara Cheyne MLA**

Manager of Government Business

Attorney-General

Minister for Human Rights

Minister for City and Government Services

Minister for the Night-Time Economy

Member for Ginninderra

---

**RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE****Questions on Notice Paper No 6****9 May 2025****Question No. 357****MR CAIN:** To ask the Attorney-General —

1. What formal performance reviews or evaluations of the ACT Solicitor-General were conducted in the three years prior to the most recent contract extension, and will the Attorney-General provide any documents or summaries of findings.
2. What key performance indicators, success metrics, or quality benchmarks have been used to assess the ACT Solicitor-General's performance during their tenure.
3. Has the ACT Government conducted any stakeholder or client directorate surveys to assess satisfaction with the Solicitor-General's legal advice or advocacy; if so, can the Attorney-General provide results or summaries.
4. Was the decision to extend the contract for a further five years based on a competitive reappointment process or was it a direct renewal, and who approved the decision.
5. Were any independent or external legal experts consulted or asked to provide advice before approving the contract extension; if so, who were they and what did they advise.
6. Did Cabinet or the Attorney-General consider any alternative candidates or succession planning options before making this decision.

**TARA CHEYNE MLA** - The answer to the Member's questions are as follows:

The role of the Solicitor-General for the ACT was created by the *Law Officers Act 2011*. The appointment of the Solicitor-General is a decision of the Executive. The re-appointment of the Solicitor-General for a further term of 5 years was the subject of a briefing to Cabinet and a decision by the Executive.



The Solicitor-General has demonstrated the successful delivery of all legal services for the Territory over a number of years. He is also responsible for the ACT Government Solicitor's Office and the management of all engagement of external legal service providers. Due to the breadth of the Territory's undertakings, the legal advice provided by the Solicitor-General and more generally the ACT Government Solicitor (**ACTGS**) is constantly tested and challenged. The Solicitor-General has provided effective and impartial legal advice to successive governments.

The JACS Annual Report reports on the performance of the ACTGS under Output 1.2 Legal Services to Government and includes the report of the Solicitor-General.

The audited Statement of Performance is also included in the Annual Report and reflects the service performance of the Directorate, including the ACTGS. The accountability indicators for Output 1.2 Legal Services to Government are as follows:

- Timely legal services provided by the ACT Government Solicitor: percentage of advices completed within 28 days;
- High quality legal services provided by the ACT Government Solicitor: percentage of client survey respondents satisfied with quality of advice and representation; and
- Timely legal services provided by the ACT Government Solicitor: percentage of court matters undertaken and completed within courts, tribunal or any applicable statutory timetable.

The client surveys are conducted every six months.

**Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.**



**Tara Cheyne MLA  
Attorney-General**

**Date:** 24/6/25

This response required 2hrs to complete, at an approximate cost of \$348.39.