

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. 399****MR CAIN:** To ask the Attorney-General —

1. Since 2018, has the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), or any member of their office, raised concerns with Government agencies or ministers regarding attempts—direct or perceived—to influence prosecutorial decisions.
2. What written protocols or internal governance measures exist to ensure prosecutorial decisions are made independently of political or media pressure, and when were they last reviewed since 2018.
3. Since 2018, has the ACT Integrity Commission, or any other oversight body, reviewed or investigated the conduct or independence of the DPP or their office; if so, what were the findings.

TARA CHEYNE MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Since May 2024, when Ms Engel was appointed as Director, the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) or members of their office have raised no concerns with Government agencies or ministers regarding attempts – direct or perceived – to influence prosecutorial decisions.
2. The Prosecution Policy of the Australian Capital Territory (publicly available at [The Prosecution Policy - DPP](#)) requires that the decision to prosecute must not be influenced by “any political advantage, disadvantage, or embarrassment to the government or any political group or association” or “the possible effect of the decision on the personal or professional circumstances of those responsible for the decision”.



Additionally, as noted in the Prosecution Policy, the *Director of Public Prosecutions Act 1990* ensures the effective removal of the prosecution process from the political arena by affording the Director an independent status in that process, thus supporting the DPP to make prosecutorial decisions independent of political or media pressure.

The Prosecution Policy, which was issued for the former Director, was last reviewed and updated in April 2021. This policy is currently under review.

3. The Board of Inquiry – Criminal Justice System, which was published 31 July 2023, included in its investigation, amongst other things, the conduct of the DPP. The findings are publicly available ([Home - Board of Inquiry - Criminal Justice System](#)).

The DPP is subject to scrutiny from the ACT Auditor-General, the ACT Ombudsman and the Integrity Commission. As set out in the DPP Annual Reports ([Annual Reports - DPP](#)), there were no relevant reports from these agencies from the 2017-2018 annual report through to the 2023-2024 Annual Report.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



**Tara Cheyne MLA
Attorney-General**

Date: 22/6/25

This response required 4 hours to complete, at an approximate cost of \$400.