

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 09

5 September 2025

Question No. 567

Peter Cain MLA: To ask the Minister for City and Government Services

1. Have the Senior Executives at the City and Environment Directorate submitted any formal declarations of private interests or potential conflicts of interest in relation to their personal social interactions with owners, executives, or staff of consulting firms based here in Canberra.
2. On how many occasions in the past 12 months have the Senior Executives referred to in part (1) hosted or attended private social gatherings at their own residence or others' residences, where directors or employees of consulting firms later engaged by the department were present.
3. What is the ACT public services policy on declarations and conflict management for public servants who socialise privately with current or prospective contractors or consultants.
4. How many declarations of interest, conflict of interest, or related party disclosures have been lodged over the past three financial years, and how many of these related to consulting firms or their directors.

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

1. The City and Environment Directorate (CED) was established on 1 July 2025 following Machinery of Government changes. For the purposes of this question, the Senior Executive at CED are interpreted to be the Director-General and the two Deputy Directors-General. These officers have all complied with their reporting obligations in this regard.
2. The Directorate does not maintain records of private social gatherings held at personal residences and therefore cannot confirm whether Senior Executives have attended such events in the past 12 months where individuals from consulting firms later engaged by the department may have been present. However, the ACTPS has strong governance frameworks in place to identify and manage any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest.
3. All executives must comply with the general obligations of the ACTPS Code of Conduct (which incorporates the framework for values and behaviours). The general obligations are set out in section 9 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*. Relevant policies that apply include the ACT Government [Conflict of Interest Policy \(June 2021\)](#), [Second Jobs and Volunteering Policy \(July 2021\)](#) and the [Declaration of Private Interests policy \(p43\)](#).

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4. Executives are required to complete a written declaration of private interests:

- on commencement of their appointment;
- annually (every 12 months); and
- whenever there is a relevant change in their personal circumstances.

While the directorate acknowledges the importance of tracking declarations, it is not practical to calculate the total number submitted over the past three years. The volume and complexity of changes during this period including frequent role transitions, temporary appointments, backfilling and recent Machinery of Government changes make such a task disproportionately time-consuming.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Tara Cheyne MLA
Minister for City and Government Services

Date: 23/9/25

This response required 45 mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$103.00.