

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

1. What safeguards are in place within the ACT Government Solicitor's office to protect the independence of the Solicitor-General from political influence or direction.
2. How many formal complaints, staff grievances, or voluntary departures have occurred in the ACT Solicitor-General's office since 2018, and how many of these related to workplace culture or management concerns.
3. Are all formal opinions and legal advices prepared by the Solicitor-General recorded in a central register or knowledge base; if so, when was this last reviewed or audited for compliance.

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

1. The Solicitor-General is an independent statutory office holder who discharges his duties and functions in accordance with the statutory and professional obligations and duties of the role. The Solicitor-General also performs the functions of the Chief Solicitor, in this regard the Solicitor-General has implemented a second counselling practice in the ACT Government Solicitor's Office that also extends to the legal advices drafted by the Solicitor-General.
2. The ACT Government Solicitor has a total staff of approximately 160 and it is inevitable that in any professional organisation of that size that issues arise around performance and complaints by staff. That may be attributable to any number of individual causes and may require to be dealt with by formal and informal processes. Like any professional services organisation the ACT Government Solicitor undergoes staff renewal as part of its healthy



development and growth and staff leave for a range of individual and personal reasons. The ACT Government Solicitor would need to undertake a manual search of records to respond to the Member's question which would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

3.

All opinions and legal advices prepared by the Solicitor-General are stored electronically and can be reviewed as required noting that they may attract legal privilege. It is unclear what type of review or compliance activity is sought.

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.