

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 17

20 March 2026

Question No. 972

PETER CAIN MLA: To ask the Minister for the Public Service

How many ACT Public Service Senior Executive Service (SES) officers currently hold roles overseeing portfolios such as infrastructure, planning, housing, health, finance, regulation or major projects whose primary professional background prior to joining the SES was in communications, media, public affairs or stakeholder engagement?

RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

As at 27 March 2026, there are 351 SES officers in the ACT Public Service. To answer this question would require each Curriculum Vitae to be analysed against each position statement and this information is not readily available.

[Section 8\(3\) of the Public Sector Management Act 1994](#) (the PSM Act) requires that all SES engagements are undertaken in accordance with the merit and equity principle.

Section 8(4) of the PSM Act outlines that a function has been undertaken in accordance with the merit and equity principle if the head of service is an equitable employer and a person is employed in a job who is best able to do the job in all the circumstances.

The engagement of an SES member in the ACTPS is conducted in accordance with the merit and equity principle, which is implemented through a merit-based selection process. The merit-based selection process considers the requirements of the position description and the ACTPS executive capabilities.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA
Minister for the Public Service

Date: 31 / 3 / 26

This response required 1hrs 30mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$203.97.