



Department of Treasury and Finance

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Ms Lizzie Blandthorn
Chair, Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Ms Blandthorn

PAEC INQUIRY INTO THE PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICER – RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before this important inquiry into the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO). I am pleased to provide further information regarding the two questions on notice relating to my evidence.

The first question sought, for each department, the number of information requests from the PBO and the number of responses received.

As my Department does not hold such information, this information was requested from other Departments and collated by my Department. This information is outlined in Attachment A. My Department has not reviewed or independently verified the data.

I note that the PBO would also be able to provide or verify this information if required by the Committee.

The second question related to whether the PBO has requested, and whether my Department has provided, any escalation rates or unit costings in relation to capital projects.

In each information request that the PBO has made to my Department, the PBO expressly notes that the information requests are confidential and must not be disclosed unless disclosure is required to respond to the information request. Noting this, I consider I am not in a position to disclose information relating to PBO requests.

Should the Committee require it, I note that the PBO may be able to provide this information.

I trust that this information satisfies the Committee's needs. If you have any further questions in relation to this information, please contact Jamie Driscoll, Deputy Secretary, Budget and Finance.

Yours sincerely



David Martine
Secretary

9 / 5 / 2021

ATTACHMENT A

Information request and response numbers by Department

Department	Number of Requests	Number of Responses
Department of Education and Training	32	31
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	30	30
Department of Health and Human Services ¹	45	41
Department of Health ¹	4	4
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing ¹	1	1
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions	14	13
Department of Justice and Community Safety ²	12	11 ³
Department of Premier and Cabinet	3	2
Department of Transport	43	39
Department of Treasury and Finance	60	59

Notes

1. A Machinery of Government change on 1 February 2021 created the two new departments of Department of Health and Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, from the former Department of Health and Human Services.
2. Data for the Department of Justice and Community Safety covers the period 21 February 2019 to 17 March 2021.
3. The Department has one current request still in progress, so not yet responded to