

PAEC 2024-25 Budget Estimates Hearing – Parliament of Victoria
Response to Questions Taken on Notice

Question 1

Can you confirm that this budget has seen an 11.4 per cent funding cut to the parliamentary investigatory committees output compared to the 2023–24 budget?

The 2024-25 base funding for Joint Investigatory Committees has increased approximately 2.5 per cent from 2023-24.

In 2023-24, the Joint Investigatory Committees received additional \$1.0 million to conduct the Performance Audits of the Victorian Auditor General’s Office and the Victorian Ombudsman, which are required to be undertaken once every four years. As a result, the total budget for Joint Investigatory Committees for 2023-24 was \$6.976 million. These additional funds are not required in 2024-25. The base funding for Joint Investigatory Committees has increased by \$0.149 million in 2024-25.

	2023-24 (\$m)	2024-25 (\$m)
Base funding ¹	5.976	6.125
VAGO Audit	.500	-
VO Audit	.500	-
Additional Levy funding	-	.047
Appropriation	6.976	6.172

¹ Base funding is increased by 2.5 per cent each year

Question 2

What was the total cost of the Regional Sitting in Echuca?

The current actual costs (invoiced to date) of the Regional Sitting of the Legislative Council in Echuca is \$230,000.

There may be some invoices outstanding which is expected to slightly increase the cost however, these are all anticipated to be of a relatively low value.

Question 3

How many items have been confiscated in the last financial year?

To date in 2023-24, at the secure entry checkpoints to Parliament House, the Protective Services Officers have seized two items.

Question 4

Has safety audit been performed for the Parliament building? For instance, the windows are not anchored and hence will form a projectile themselves and shatter in an explosion.

Over the past decade, there has not been a ‘safety audit’ of the Parliament House building.

In recent years there has been a security infrastructure assessment undertaken which resulted in significant upgrades to aspects of the façade of Parliament House which are public facing.

Question 5

How many security incidents took place in the financial year 2022–23 inside the parliamentary precinct and to date this financial year inside the parliamentary precinct?

The data below includes vandalism/graffiti incidents.

LOCATION	2022-23	2023-24 @ Apr 2024
Parliamentary Precinct	94	66
Electorate Offices	259	297
Total	353	363

Note: 2022-23 was a decrease in incidents from 2022-21, when there was a total of 439 incidents recorded.

Question 6

There have been a number of either vandalism or deliberate attacks on MPs' offices. How much has the clean-up cost been in the last 12 months or in this financial year?

The total expenditure year-to-date to repair/clean electorate offices following damage to the external areas is \$54,443 (incl. GST). The majority of works have involved the removal of graffiti.

Question 7

Will the cost-of-living bonus be the same for parliamentary officers in the Parliamentary Officer Enterprise Agreement as the recently negotiated in the CPSU deal?

The Parliamentary Officers Enterprise Agreement has been a nexus agreement to the Victorian Public Service Enterprise Agreement.

This nexus means that remuneration levels of staff remain consistent between the two agreements.

It is anticipated that this nexus will continue into the new agreement.

Question 8

The table in DPS (parliamentary departments') questionnaire shows the gender of DPS (parliamentary) staff, from MPs to department staff, and it includes electorate officers. The self-described row is empty. Could you please outline steps that are missing for that data to be passed on and recorded appropriately?

The employee data provided in the questionnaire represents information for Parliamentary Officers employed across all Parliamentary Departments plus Parliamentary Advisers, Electorate Officers and Members of Parliament.

Data collection in relation to personal characteristics such as gender identity and disability is limited and incomplete. The information is generally gathered as part of the onboarding systems, which includes questions in relation to personal characteristics. The parliamentary departments acknowledge that new team members may be hesitant to disclose personal data when they commence work for an employer, that long term employees may not have had the same opportunity to provide this information due to aged systems and that personal characteristics may change over time.

DPS is developing a plan to upgrade the existing aged human resources platforms to a contemporary system which is expected to improve data collection and reporting.

Error in the questionnaire: the data source for the information in the questionnaire has been reviewed. This review found a configuration error used to generate the employee data in the questionnaire has occurred, resulting in two part time employees who had selected 'self-described' as their gender being incorrectly reported.

The configuration error has been repaired and the report reconfigured to ensure that percentage calculation field does not apply rounding and displays all calculated percentages.

The following table is a replacement for Section 20c) of the questionnaire with the correct values as recorded in the relevant human resources system.

Identification	As at 30-06-2023		As at 30-06-2024		As at 30-06-2025	
	(Actual FTE Number)	(% of total staff)	(Expected FTE Number)	(% of total staff)	(Forecast FTE Number)	(% of total staff)
Men	324.16	43.5%	353.12	44.7%	353.57	44.6%
Women	419.00	56.3%	437.44	55.3%	438.68	55.3%
Self-described	1.60	0.2%	1.15	0.1%	1.15	0.1%
Total	744.76	100%	791.71	100%	793.40	100%