

Response to Questions Taken on Notice - Budget Estimates Hearing on 16 December 2020

1. The Chief Health Officer (CHO) gave you a range of advice during this COVID pandemic period for operating a safe working environment here in the Parliament: installing Perspex screens in the chamber; additional cleaning, as you just described; new technology. Specific for that purpose and in response to advice from the CHO, how much additional expenditure was incurred by the Parliament for these safe operating measures, including for security, IT, cleaning and so forth?

Response

	2019-20	2020-21 (Jul20 – Dec20)
Masks and sanitisation for precinct and electorate offices / chamber upgrades (Perspex screens)	16,100	66,974
Temperature Machines		22,715
Additional cleaning costs	58,528	128,440
Information Technology		
<i>Service Desk</i>	34,500	
<i>Network and Sys Admin</i>	24,000	
<i>Equipment</i>	58,635	
<i>Licencing</i>		37,000

- \$2.08m for 'EO laptops' and \$200K for 'Upgrade to support Teams phone calling' were approved in the 2020-21 Budget and are expected to be utilised in second half of 2020-21.
- Working from Home Allowance of \$154K in was paid in total to Parliamentary Officers and Electorate Officers in 2019-20. Working from Home Allowance is estimated to be \$623K in 2020-21 from July 2020 to June 2021.

2. In the 2020–21 financial year Parliament is forecast to spend \$106 500 on one FTE labour hire security staff and \$1.24 million on contractors. Parliament spent \$1.267—or almost \$1.268—million on security in the 2019–20 year. What was the role for an additional labour hire security contractor to be hired by the Parliament?

Response

The additional security cost was for two temporary agency security advisers employed on a short-term basis to:

- backfill vacant ongoing positions to assist in managing the increase in security incidents, including threats to Members, during COVID-19; and
- assist in managing and coordinating the installation of security technical equipment overlays in 33 electorate offices in the first quarter of FY 2020-21.

3. Under the *Parliamentary Salaries, Allowances and Superannuation Act* the number of Shadow Ministers is limited to no more than the number of government Ministers. There are currently 21 Ministers, but the Leader of the Opposition recently announced a reshuffle to 22 Shadow Ministers. How is this possible under the Act? Inform the committee which member might be reducing their pay in order to comply with that as per your records?

Response

All additional salary payments made to the officeholders have complied with the *Parliamentary Salaries, Allowances and Superannuation Act* (PSAS Act). Parliament is unable to disclose information in relation to individual officeholders.

4. Have there been any significant savings in the budget from the lack of travel? Because normally committees would travel a fair bit and that would be a significant expense. I am not expecting there is going to be a lot of travel in this financial year, I would imagine. What sort of savings are we expecting with that?

Response

The following are the travel expenses incurred by Parliament per financial year:

2018-19 Travel & Accommodation for LC, LA, JIC & DPS (excluding MP Travel)	\$279,327
2019-20 Travel & Accommodation for LC, LA, JIC & DPS (excluding MP Travel)	\$196,948
2020-21 Travel & Accommodation for LC, LA, JIC & DPS (excluding MP Travel) – from July 2020 to December 2020	\$1,366