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Attorney-General
Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation
Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs
Minister for Environment and Climate Change

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12 JUN 2026

Ms Fiona Murphy
Committee Secretary
Estimates Committee B
House of Assembly

By email: Fiona.murphy@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Murphy

In response to the Chair's request of 2 June 2026 for further information resulting from the examination of the Estimates relating to the Attorney-General, Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation and Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs portfolios, I provide the following information.

Attorney-General

- 1. The Victims of Crime service team do a wonderful job supporting victims. However, in order to provide timely support, the team need to be aware of a case, or the victim of a crime needs to be asked if they would like to be proactively approached. Can the review into the framework examine this?**

I appreciate the recognition of the various Victims of Crime teams and the support they provide to victim/survivors and their families. This is a critical and challenging role, and we are privileged to have dedicated and compassionate staff working to deliver these services.

I am also extremely pleased to support the Tasmania Law Reform Institute (TLRI) Review of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1976* (the Act) which will identify reform and refinement of this critical service for victims of crime.

The review of the Act aims to strengthen its functioning and ensure it is line with modern practice, while recognising the size and resources of the Tasmanian jurisdiction.

To that end, the review will consider potential changes to jurisdiction, powers, practices and/or procedures under the Act and of the Department of Justice's (the Department) Victims of Crime and Victims Assistance teams that would better serve the needs of victims of crime with a focus on trauma-informed practice.

Without pre-empting the outcome of the review, it may lead to changes in processes and procedures around engaging a victim in the first instance. At present, the Department is unable to proactively reach out to victims/survivors as it does not have access to their contact information.

However, currently the Victims Support and Assistance teams report that most of the calls they receive are from victims of crime who have been referred to the service by Tasmania Police or the Director of Public Prosecutions. Word of mouth referrals and referrals from private psychologists and other service providers, such as GPs, social workers, health providers and non-government counselling services, are also a common referral pathway for victims. In the unfortunate cases of homicide, the Department is also often contacted by funeral services assisting relatives of the victim.

Integrity Commission – answers provided by the Integrity Commission

2. How much has been spent by the Integrity Commission on legal expenses in the years 2021/2022 and 2022/2023?

The Integrity Commission's (Commission) expenditure on legal fees for the specified periods is as follows:

- 2021-2022 = \$0.00
- 2022-2023 = \$867.49

3. Of the legal matters for which Integrity Commission monies were spent in each of the years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24, and 25/26 (year to date), how much in each year was spent on:

- a. assessment of complaints under section 35 of the Integrity Commission Act; and**
- b. an investigation under Part 6 of the Integrity Commission Act?**

- a. Of the legal matters for which Integrity Commission monies were spent in each of the years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24, and 25/26 (year to date), \$0.00 was spent on assessment of complaints under section 35 of the *Integrity Commission Act 2009*.
- b. Of the legal matters for which Integrity Commission monies were spent in each of the years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24, and 25/26 (year to date), the following amount was spent on an investigation under Part 6 of the *Integrity Commission Act 2009* in each of the nominated financial years:
 - 21/22 = \$0.00
 - 22/23 = \$867.49
 - 23/24 = \$143,218
 - 24/25 = \$85,310
 - 25/26 = \$88,149.70

4. How many current members of the Tasmanian Parliament are currently under investigation by the Integrity Commission?

Investigation Olegas and Investigation Loyetea have not been completed. The Integrity Commission is precluded for reasons of confidentiality from providing any further information. Section 94 of the *Integrity Commission Act 2009* requires the Board and an officer or employee of the Integrity Commission to 'preserve confidentiality in respect of all matters that come to the person's knowledge in the course of employment or duties under the Act ...'.

5. In cases where Integrity Commission matters have reached the Supreme Court of Tasmania, has the Integrity Commission ever been the party to seek the suppression order?

The Integrity Commission is precluded for reasons of confidentiality from providing any information in response to this question.

6. Have any matters for which legal monies were expended in the years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24, 25/26 (year to date), been in relation to a section 92 of the Integrity Commission Act complaint, and if so, when did such matter commence?

The Integrity Commission is precluded for reasons of confidentiality from providing any information in response to this question.

7. Without identifying any individual, has the Integrity Commission been unable publish a report due to legal proceedings?

The Integrity Commission is precluded for reasons of confidentiality from providing any information in response to this question.

8. Old annual reports of the Integrity Commission have detailed that the authorities' investigations Loyetea and Olegas were about Members of Parliament, but the current listing on the Commission's website does not why is this the case, and can you correct it?

The Integrity Commission's Annual Reports contain summaries of assessments that were completed in the financial year and investigations that were completed in the financial year (at Appendix A). Each summary identifies the matter name, sector, respondent level, and principal allegation/s. In addition, following tabling of the Annual Report each year, all Investigation Summaries are published separately online. These are derived from the Annual Report's Appendix A.

In contrast, the 'current matter status updates' on the 'Investigating Misconduct' tab on the website identifies ongoing matters, including such details as the matter name, misconduct matter number, principal allegation/s, and date the assessor or investigator was appointed. The current matter status updates do not include the sector (for example, Parliament, Local Government, State Service Agency) because their purpose is limited to providing procedural transparency, rather than full contextual summaries of matters.

In relation to the specific matters identified, the following information is provided:

- The 2022-23 Annual Report set out that Assessment Olegas had been completed in that year and accepted for investigation. The current matter status update on the website sets out that an investigator was appointed to Investigation Olegas on 18 November 2022; and
- The 2021-22 Annual Report set out that Assessment Loyetea had been completed in that year and accepted for investigation. The current matter status update on the website sets out that an investigator was appointed to Investigation Loyetea on 4 May 2022.

As neither Investigation Olegas nor Investigation Loyetea have been completed they are not referred to in recent Annual Reports.

The purpose of the current matter status updates differs from the more detailed summaries provided in the Annual Reports. While the updates focus on procedural transparency - such as appointment dates - they do not currently include contextual details such as sector. This explains why the website listings do not identify that the matters relate to Members of Parliament.

Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation

- 1. How many lockdowns were there across the Risdon Prison Complex in March 2026 and April 2026? How many of these were more than 4 hours? How many were more than 8 hours?**

The reporting framework for capturing information in the manner requested in this question is complex due to the differing operations of the individual units within each prison facility. The reporting of lockdowns (variances to the planned out of cell hours) information is captured by units/areas within the Risdon Prison Complex. On any given day, a number of lockdowns may be required, across a single unit, part population of a unit, or for the full facility.

Lockdowns can vary greatly in length of time. For example, a late unlock of a unit/area by minutes/hours, to a full morning/afternoon lockdown, or a full day lockdown. Generally, the TPS records any variance (that is a facility being unlocked later than the scheduled unlock time or locked down earlier than then scheduled lock down time) exceeding 30 minutes as a 'lockdown'.

The Risdon Prison Complex (RPC) is broken up into 12 reporting units/areas for the purposes of capturing time out of cell and lockdown information, and therefore if the facility experiences a lockdown, multiple lockdowns would be recorded. Depending on circumstances, all units/areas may be locked down at one time, or rotationally locked down across the day (for various periods of time).

Considering the above, the TPS considers that aggregating all recorded lockdown entries across RPC areas into a single total does not provide an accurate picture of lockdowns. It does not reflect the differing operational dynamics of individual units and results in an

inflated representation of lockdown activity and does not provide any information about how many people are impacted by that lockdown. For example, a single unit may only have one or two prisoners housed in it and if that unit was locked down multiple times throughout the day it would be recorded as 3 or 4 lockdowns but would only impact the two prisoners.

Noting the above commentary, between March and April 2026.

- 182 lockdowns had a duration of less than 4 hours
- 174 had a duration greater than 4 hours (but less than 8 hours)
- 303 had a duration greater than 8 hours.

It's important to note that lockdowns do not always necessitate prisoners being confined to their cells, often they may only be limited to their accommodation units or divisions.

The TPS recognises lockdowns as an important operational tool, utilised to ensure a safe and secure correctional environment for prisoners, staff and visitors. Lockdowns are sometimes necessary and unavoidable.

2. What percentage of the Tasmanian Prison Service Budget is spent on prisoners who have reoffended?

Recidivism is defined in the Report on Government Services (ROGs) as a return to custody within two years of release, with the most recent ROGs data showing that the rate for prisoners who returned to prison within two years for 2024-25 was 46.6%.

The TPS does not measure or record this figure and there is no reporting module that could perform these functions. The TPS also does not have a means to accurately calculate this figure in a way that would be accurate without significant manual work which increases the risk of potential inaccuracies in the reported data.

3. How many unfilled shifts have there been in the Tasmanian Prison Service in 2025-2026?

This question is taken to mean the number of correctional officer shifts, not including other staff within the TPS.

Correctional officer shifts include all shifts worked by correctional officers and correctional supervisors, but excludes shifts worked by more senior correctional staff.

The TPS has the following standard shift requirements across its facilities each day:

Required Staff - per day (CO & CS)

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Staff required as per roster	138	133	133	137	137	108	108

These shift numbers do not cover unplanned essential shifts. For example, they do not include extra staff required to undertake a hospital escort or extra staff required to perform constant observations on a prisoner who is being monitored due to suicide and self-harm concerns.

The TPS does not have access to a report outlining all the unfilled shifts over a set period.

Shifts may be unfilled due to unplanned staff absences or unplanned essential shifts such as hospital visits.

In the time available, TPS is not able to calculate the number of unplanned shifts across 25-26, which would require significant manual work as this information is not recorded in the format requested.

4. How many appointments for health and rehabilitation programs have been cancelled as a result of lockdowns in 2025-2026?

Between 1 July 2025 and 31 March 2026, programs have been cancelled six times due to lockdowns at the Tasmania Prison Service.

Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs

1. How much staff turnover has there been at the Consumer Building and Occupational Services in the section that handles building disputes, and has this resulted in cases not being proceeded against?

In the previous 5 years, CBOS' (Consumer Building and Occupational Services) records reflect 16 investigators or managers in the Building and Disputes unit have left CBOS or moved to different teams within CBOS.

CBOS accepts that it needs to have systems in place to ensure statutory timeframes are being met and that staff turnover is not an excuse for non-compliance with timeframes.

A review of CBOS' databases has been undertaken. That review shows that since 2017 one building investigation exceeded its statutory timeframe as a direct result of staff leaving and insufficient monitoring being in place, and a second building investigation identified staff turnover as a contributing factor to exceeding the statutory timeframe.

CBOS has taken steps to recruit or transfer new investigators to the team, improved processes and oversight of investigations, and is currently implementing a new case-management system to mitigate the risk of exceeding statutory timeframes.

2. Why wasn't Golden Homes investigated by the Consumer Building and Occupational Services when complaints were first made given the director's history and being later found to have insufficient assets to cover liabilities since inception by the SV Parters' report?

CBOS has reviewed its database and has found no indication it received complaints about the director or his companies prior to complaints being made about Golden Homes Pty Ltd.

While homes are being built, the responsibility for ensuring buildings are completed in accordance with the *Building Act 2016* and National Construction Code primarily rests with the engaged building surveyor.

A review of CBOS' records indicates that it investigated or reviewed complaints received about Golden Homes and provided advice or contacted the engaged building surveyor to ensure rectification of alleged defects.

3. Since 2005 how many complaints, notifications, investigations or other reports concerning respirable crystalline silica at the Tasmanian Advanced Minerals facility have been received by WorkSafe Tasmania? What enforcement action resulted from those matters, and have you, at any time as Minister in this, or any related portfolio, received any written or verbal communications that one or more workers had been formally notified by the company that they had been exposed to airborne silica dust or respirable crystalline silica; and if so, when were you informed?

Since 2005, WorkSafe Tasmania has received the following complaints, notifications, investigations or other reports concerning respirable crystalline silica at the Tasmanian Advanced Minerals facility:

- Complaints received = 4
- Notifications received = 0*
- Investigations received = 0
- Reports received = 13

*1 x Notification related to the Blackwater Mine Site not the TAM facility site.

Since 2005, WorkSafe Tasmania has taken the following enforcement action as a result of the above:

- Compliance inspections agreed actions as per National Compliance and Enforcement Policy = 40
- Notice under s38 of the repealed *WHS Act 1995* = 1
- Notices to produce documents under s171 of the *WHS Act 2012* = 5
- Directions issued under s23(5) of the *Mines WHS (SR) Act 2012* = 1
- Improvement Notices to TAM Contractors = 2

I note the question asks about notifications to me as the Minister. I advise that I do not and should not receive notifications of this nature. The WHS Act requires notification of exposure to airborne silica dust or respirable crystalline silica to be made to the Work Health and Safety Regulator.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Guy Barnett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Hon Guy Barnett MP
Deputy Premier
Attorney-General
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