

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2021

Supplementary hearings

Questions taken on notice Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Legal Affairs

Police and Emergency Services

Hearing: Friday 29 October 2021

Answers due: 5pm 29 November 2021

Minister Elliott – Budget Estimates 2020-2021 – Answers to questions on notice

Payment of Fire and Rescue costs

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Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Ms D'Elia, does your department have an arrangement where you pay any of the costs of Fire and Rescue?

Ms D'ELIA: I would have to take that question on notice, Mr Shoebridge.

Answer

I am advised:

No. Fire and Rescue NSW is responsible for the costs of its own operations, including legal costs.

Oversight of emergency services expending their legal expenses

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Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Do you have any oversight of how the different emergency services agencies expend their legal expenses?

Ms D'ELIA: Again, I would have to take that question on notice.

Answer

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice does not have oversight of emergency services agencies' expenditure of legal expenses.

Legal expenses policy for emergency services agencies

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Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: Yes.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Again, through you, Minister, to Ms D'Elia, is there a policy in place that you are aware of under which the different emergency services have to manage their legal expenses and undertake the engagement of external legal assistance?

Ms D'ELIA: Again, I would have to take that question on notice.

Answer

I am advised:

Emergency services agencies in the Stronger Communities cluster utilise the NSW Government Legal Services Panel if an external law firm is required to be engaged to obtain advice. Emergency services agencies are required to abide by the Panel rules of engagement, including rules as to costs, reporting and performance management.

Further questions regarding the policies of individual agencies should be addressed to the respective agencies.