



Dominic Perrottet
Treasurer

MEDIA STATEMENT

Wednesday, 9 September 2020

STATEMENT ON MINISTERIAL STAFF AUDIT

Today I am releasing the *Audit of Staff Hiring* arrangements into my Ministerial Office conducted by Treasury's General Counsel and Chief Financial and Operations Officer.

The audit covered the period 1 September 2015 to 10 August 2020, and examined the arrangements of 82 staff (including interns) who worked in the office during this time.

The audit identified three cases where staff were technically engaged incorrectly as contractors – one person as a policy advisor and two Department Liaison Officers (DLOs).

Two of these arrangements were from icare and a third was from the former Department of Finance Service and Innovation (DFSI).

Only one of these staff, a policy adviser, was working in my office at the time these issues were first raised in early August.

The full audit is [available here](#) and contains an outline of these three cases.

The failures occurred due to errors in the agencies and the Ministerial Office that resulted in staff employed by agencies as contractors being assigned as a DLO or secondee under the Government Sector Employment Regulation 2014.

My Chief of Staff resigned on 6 August 2020 as a result of this administrative oversight.

The audit also identified administrative deficiencies, such as missing dates on paperwork, reflecting inconsistent application of process.

I regret that these mistakes occurred, and also that they have detracted from the hard work of many staff, both past and present, who diligently served the people of NSW.

In response to the audit I will adopt the following Treasury recommendations:

- Staff in my office and relevant agencies will undertake training on correct application of all policies and procedures as they pertain to staff hiring in the Ministerial Office.
- Agencies to only send DLOs to my Ministerial Office who have knowledge and skill regarding the operations of the agency from which they are sent, consistent with requirements of the relevant Department of Premier and Cabinet circular.

- Ensure that all staff seconded from agencies are aware of, complete, and update personal interest declarations, to avoid any actual or perceived conflicts of interest between their role and the agency that sent them.

In addition, I have instructed that Treasury conduct an annual audit review of staffing in my Ministerial Office.

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