



City of **HOBART**

MEMORANDUM: **LORD MAYOR**
 DEPUTY LORD MAYOR
 ELECTED MEMBERS

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Meeting: Finance and Governance Committee

**Meeting date: 22 February
2022**

Raised by: Councillor Dutta

Question:

It was reported at a recent Council meeting that in the final four months of 2021, that a total of 59 questions had been asked during Public Question Time and that two individuals had asked a combined total of 37 of these questions.

Can the Director advise who those two individuals are and how much in monetary terms has it cost the Council to answer those questions?

Response:

Between September and December 2021 there were a total of 70 questions. The two individuals who had asked the highest total number of questions were Louise Elliot (22 questions in total) and Louise Bloomfield (15 questions in total).

Public Question Time may see multiple questions being raised in relation to a single issue by a single person.

For the purpose of this response, these multiple questions have been tallied to individuals despite it not being representative of the number of times they have appeared at a Council meeting for Public Question Time.

It is difficult to quantify both time and costs incurred responding to a public question as these can vary considerably depending on the complexity of the questions asked or issue raised. It is estimated that it would take an average 2 hours per response which includes officer time involved in the administration, preparation and approval of each public question.

Previously an indicative figure of \$40 per hour has been utilised to answer similar questions. Therefore an appropriate cost in responding to these sorts of questions is \$2,960.

As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.



Paul Jackson
**MANAGER LEGAL AND
GOVERNANCE**

Date: 14 April 2022
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