

Question on Notice

No. 758

Asked on 15 June 2021

MR M BERKMAN asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (HON S MILES) –

QUESTION:

With reference to investigations by the Office of the Independent Assessor (OIA)—

Will the Deputy Premier advise (a) how many investigations relating to alleged misconduct by elected Local Councillors are currently under investigation by the OIA, (b) how many investigations relating to alleged misconduct by elected Local Councillors have been under investigation by the OIA for more than 17 months and (c) why have investigations into alleged misconduct by the Gold Coast Mayor been unresolved for almost 18 months?

ANSWER:

With reference to investigations by the Office of the Independent Assessor (OIA):

- a) As at 23 June 2021, 220 matters were under investigation by the OIA.
- b) Four of these investigations have required more than 17 months; three of the four are parked, awaiting the outcome of an identical matter which is currently before the Councillor Conduct Tribunal.
- c) All OIA investigations are subject to a formal prioritisation model which is based on a number of criteria including:
 - whether the matter was referred by the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC)
 - the seriousness of the alleged misconduct
 - the number of other matters relating to the same councillor which are already before the Councillor Conduct Tribunal (Tribunal), or are undergoing a natural justice process prior to a possible referral to the Tribunal
 - the date of the complaint.