

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 880**  
**Asked on 20 August 2024**

**DR C ROWAN** ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR YOUTH JUSTICE (HON D FARMER)

QUESTION:

With reference to the Department of Education's Integrity and Employee Relations unit—

Will the Minister advise (a) how many investigations are currently pending or ongoing, including the commencement date and (b) what is the metric used to ensure investigations are assessed within certain time frames, i.e. 30 days or 60 days?

ANSWER:

The Department of Education currently has 207 matters which have been assessed as suitable for investigation. 63 investigations are pending and 144 investigation matters are ongoing. Of the 144 ongoing matters, 78 are within 0–6 months since the commencement date, 16 are within 6–12 months of the commencement date and 50 are 12+ months since the commencement date.

The Department aligns its workplace investigation processes and timeframes according to the provisions contained in the *Public Sector Act 2022*, Public Sector Commission (PSC) *Workplace Investigations (Directive 01/24)* and associated guidelines. Furthermore, if the matter is categorised as corrupt conduct, the investigation is managed in accordance with the Crime and Corruption Commission's *Corruption in focus* guide.

Generally, the Directives and guidance material state that workplace investigations must be completed in a timely manner, proportionate to the seriousness of the allegations and complexity of the investigation; however, delays may also be experienced which are outside of the Department's control, such as having to pause the workplace investigation due to current court proceedings or police involvement. Therefore, investigation timeframes can vary.

The PSC *Workplace Investigations (Directive 01/24)* sets out requirements for independent reviews of investigations other than corrupt conduct every six months, to ensure they are being conducted in a timely manner and procedural fairness requirements are being met. The outcome of these reviews are communicated to subject officers.