

Councillor Cabada - QoN - Correspondence with the Premier and State Ministers

Tuesday, 24 March 2026
Council

Council Member
Councillor Alfredo Cabada

Public

Contact Officer:
Anthony Spartalis, Chief Operating
Officer

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Alfredo Cabada will ask the following Question on Notice:

- '1. Since 22 November 2022, how many formal letters have been sent by the Lord Mayor or the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - a) The Premier; and
 - b) State Government Ministers?
2. Of those letters:
 - a) How many have received a formal written response?
 - b) How many remain without a response?
3. For correspondence that has not received a response:
 - a) What is the date each letter was sent?
 - b) How many days have elapsed since each letter was issued?
 - c) Has any follow-up correspondence or contact been made, and if so, on what date?
 - d) What are the subject matters of the outstanding letters that have not yet received a response?
4. Does the City of Adelaide maintain a formal register or tracking mechanism for correspondence sent to the Premier and Ministers, including response timeframes?
5. Is there an established protocol for follow-up where correspondence has not been acknowledged or responded to within a reasonable timeframe?
6. In the past 12 months, what has been the average response time for ministerial correspondence?'

REPLY

As Presiding Member, I have determined that, taken in totality with the other questions asked, the question is improper due to the unreasonable length and number of questions asked by the Councillor and the principle that questions must not impede the meeting or unreasonably divert Council resources.

Notwithstanding, I have decided that on this occasion the questions will be answered; however, should this pattern continue, I will be likely to determine such questions to be improper, and they will not be answered.

The following response maintains the original numbering for clarity.

1. The Lord Mayor, as Presiding Member, has determined that this question is vague and improper and is not to be answered in accordance with Regulation 9(6) of the *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013*.

It is not clear what is meant by the term 'formal letter' and the scope of the request is so broad such that we expect the degree of work required to answer the question would more appropriately be dealt with by way of a motion with or without notice.

2. The Lord Mayor, as Presiding Member, has determined that this question is vague and improper and is not to be answered in accordance with Regulation 9(6) of the *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013* for the reasons outlined above.
3. The Lord Mayor, as Presiding Member, has determined that this question is vague and improper and is not to be answered in accordance with Regulation 9(6) of the *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013* for the reasons outlined above.
4. Council maintains a formal register of all correspondence and records in accordance with the requirements of the *State Records Act 1997 (SA)* (State Records Act). Council utilises the Content Manager system to store electronic versions of all correspondence and records. Hard-copy documents are retained as required under the provisions of the State Records Act, ensuring compliance with relevant legislative and record-keeping standards.
5. Council has no additional procedures or policies beyond the correspondence requirements noted above, which encompass the receipt, registration, response, and timely management of correspondence.
6. The Lord Mayor, as Presiding Member, has determined that this question is vague and improper and is not to be answered in accordance with Regulation 9(6) of the *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013* for the reasons outlined above.

The question is also arguably additionally vague as it refers to the response time for all 'ministerial correspondence' not just correspondence in response to a letter from the Lord Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to the Premier and Ministers.

Staff time in receiving and preparing this reply	To prepare this reply in response to the question on notice took approximately 3.5 hours.
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